

THE CALCUTTA JOURNAL.

OF

several years of continual loss of revenue, and a large sum of money, including 10,000,000 dollars, owing to the misappropriation of

Politics and General Literature.

VOL. II.]

TUESDAY, MARCH 4, 1823.

[No. 54.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

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Politics of Europe.

Yesterday's Shipping Report announced four arrivals in the river: the *ZELI* from the Mauritius, the *EDWARD SRETTEL* and Bark *DOLPHIN* from Madras, and the *THETIS* from Rangoon; particulars of which will be given under the usual head.

In the afternoon we received Madras Papers of the 18th ultimo, which contained nothing of interest; but the arrival of the *WOODFORD*, or *MARQUIS OF HASTINGS* was confidently expected in the course of the week, with English News of a late date. In the mean time we continue to draw on the English Papers and Publications in our possession. In our second sheet we give the conclusion of the admirable Essay from the *EDINBURGH REVIEW*, on the State of Ireland; and to afford a variety after the long articles lately published, we devote this sheet to light and agreeable selections, suited to the general reader.

London, September 9, 1822.—The mercantile letters received by the last Malta Packet speak of the beneficial effects experienced by the inhabitants of the island from the abolition of that ancient abuse the *Univerita*, or Government monopoly of the supply of grain. It ceased on the 30th of June last, and as freedom of trade on all occasions is beneficial to society, the mercantile interest immediately became active; corn was imported into Malta from the cheapest sources, and the people, whose annual consumption was about 90,000 quarters of wheat, were deriving incalculable advantages by the abatement of an institution which heretofore had compelled them to pay double value for the necessary article of bread. A similar act at home, by which the monopoly at present held by the agriculturists to supply exclusively the inhabitants of the United Kingdom with the necessaries of life might be abolished, would be followed by results equally beneficial.

There is still, however, another grievance existing at Malta which must be abolished before prosperity can be restored to that island. It exists in the present quarantine establishment. In lieu of a Board of Health, *vested with the entire control of this department, and completely independent of Government*, it is at present placed in charge of a single individual, called the Superintendent of Health, who is appointed to this important office by Government. The countries on the Continent repose no faith in this novelty, and they consequently subject all vessels and goods arriving from Malta to a strict deprivation. The delay and expence thus arising on all intercourse with Sicily, Italy, France, and Spain, are serious injuries to the Maltese trade. The complaints of the inhabitants are not unknown to the Government at home, but still no remedy has been applied. The quarantine of every Continental port is under the management of a Board of Health, composed of the most respectable members of the community, many of whom serve gratuitously, and whose dispositions are never interfered with by the Supreme Government. It is by an establishment similarly constituted and respected that these Continental Governments can alone rely that this important department will not be made subservient to the purposes of the general Government, by occasional relaxations in favour of individuals, and by opening direct communications with countries forbidden by sanitary maxims of prudence. It is not yet forgotten in the Mediterranean, that Sir Thomas Maitland, on returning from

Tunis in 1816, along with the head of the Health Department, immediately took pratique at Malta; and it is also well known that Malta holds a free intercourse with the Seven Islands, and in many other respects deviates from the rules of quarantine enforced, practised, and conformed to by other Christian States. So long as these abuses are permitted to exist, the other Christian States cannot repose confidence in their intercourse with Malta, and that Island will not be placed on a proper footing until a Board of Health be appointed, composed of persons chiefly if not entirely independent on the Government. The only foreign ports to which ships from Malta have at present free access, are those of our allies the Turks, to whom alone, *amongst the many obligations which the civilised world owe them*, we are indebted for the perpetuation of the plague, and the necessary precautions on the part of the rest of mankind against a free intercourse with Malta, to prevent this most dreadful visitation. It is, however, necessary to the present system that plague, pestilence, barbarism, white slavery and cruelty should be continued for the sake of the legitimate balance of civilization and ignorance. The Holy Alliance will hold the beam, which may be turned either way by the weight of any of the members being thrown into either scale. They wish the human mind to remain as it is, and will not permit, if they can help it, one additional particle of knowledge to be at present introduced into Europe. England cannot at such a solemn meeting be better represented than by the Right Honorable B. Bathurst, for no Statesman is better qualified to allay the fears naturally entertained of the progress of learning in the British Empire, and the motto on his equipages may be "*ex uno disc omnes*," for this would be a piece of *finesse* worthy of a modern Ambassador.

Steam Conveyance.—The Dutch Mail due on Friday, (Sept 6) and which might have been received the day before, has not yet come to hand. The merchants very justly complain of this delay in the receipt of their letters. The RAPID steam vessel has arrived since this mail became due, has again sailed for Rotterdam, and the proprietors are as certain of her arrival again to-morrow evening (Sunday) as that any of the mail coaches will come in at their stated hours. If the Post-office would only hire steam boats for a short period in the North Sea, their superiority would soon be manifested. In place of the expence of a mail coach to convey the foreign mails to Harwich and Dover, they could all be dispatched by steam boats from the river, and much expence would be saved to the Government, attended by most important advantages to the merchants in point of time and regularity. The Post-office, however, is not inimical to improvements, and strong expectations are entertained that this important department of their establishment will soon be placed on a proper footing. The experiment could now be made at a trifling expence by the RAPID and KING OF THE NETHERLANDS steam passage vessels at present on the London and Rotterdam station.

Trade.—Great difficulties continue to exist in the intercourse betwixt Great Britain and the Columbian States, partly occasioned by piracies, which the naval power of the United States of America has not been yet able to put down, and for which service England cannot afford any force of the slightest consequence, and partly by the want of British public Envys to protect British property after its arrival. At Lloyd's it is almost impossible to get a

vessel underwritten to Columbia even at any premium, and many houses, who had prepared shipments for a vessel now loading in the River, prefer keeping their property at home to the hazard attending the speculation. The British Foreign Minister, in place of attending the Holy Alliance at Verona, will be far better employed at home in devising means to render the intercourse with Hayti and with all the South American States, as safe as possible, for it is very interesting to the British manufacturers, and when properly regulated, must add greatly to the wealth and prosperity of the Empire. There is no national subject which requires so imperiously the consideration of the Government as the State of Trade, for in the present ruinous state of the Agricultural interest, and with an overwhelming National Debt, the existence of the present order of things depends on productive employment for the people, and increased trade with Foreign Nations can alone effect this most beneficent event. Unless, however, the prices of the necessaries of life find their level in Europe, and unless the new independent States be fully recognised by British nation, Commerce must continue limited and harassed by the restrictions or prohibition. Agriculture can receive no relief, and the Public Debt must become daily more intolerable.—*Morning Chronicle.*

His Majesty.—The very unceremonious manner in which his MAJESTY is occasionally treated in the Papers which push their professions of loyalty beyond the constitutional limits, reminds one very much of the practice of certain nations who, when their prayers do not produce the wished-for result, proceed very unceremoniously to give their idols a good flogging. We shall proceed to point out more particularly the occasions to which the above observation has reference,

It must be still fresh in the recollection of our readers, that his MAJESTY, from some cause involved in a obscurity which we do not wish to remove, had a strong repugnance to visit Scotland, that he long lent a deaf ear to the Ministerial recommendations that he should gladden the people of that ancient kingdom by his presence, and that even after a promise had been extorted, and the announcement of a visit had been formally communicated to the authorities of the country, the orders were soon countermanded. Our readers will also recollect that THE NEW TIMES immediately afterwards assumed a high tone with respect to this subject, declaring that they were not the friends of his MAJESTY, who had advised him to postpone his visit, thereby intimating, that this was not a point respecting which he could be allowed to indulge his own inclinations. Soon after this fentre the Royal Visit was again announced, and the loyal subjects in Scotland were in due time made happy by the sight of the Royal countenance.

Extensive Robbery.—A few evenings ago, while the family were busily engaged serving customers, a thief contrived to get up stairs into the bed room of Mr. Thomas, landlord of the Green Man, Stratford, and plundered a desk of 400 sovereigns, a 20*l.* note, and three valuable waches, with which he got clear off.

Robbery on the Ipswich Mail.—A great robbery was committed on the Ipswich mail, coming to town lately. A person inside the coach had the care of property, from four different banks, to the amount of forty thousand pounds, and having been obliged to leave the coach for one minute, the bag was stolen. One thousand pounds reward was offered for the apprehension of the robbers.

Captain Owen.—We are glad to hear that Captain Owen, of the BELLEROPHON hulk, who was stabbed by the convict, Hartley, is in a fair way of recovery, every symptom of mortification having disappeared.

Wholesome Beer.—We are glad (says the HUNTINGDON GAZETTE) to be enabled to state that the magistrates of the Tose-land hundred, on the requisition of the most respectable inhabitants of Buckden, headed we believe by the Bishop of Lincoln, have licensed a Free Public House in that town, all the others being under the dominion of great brewers. This has already had the effect, not only of reducing the price of beer, but of greatly improving its quality. We understand the Magistrates have

expressed a determination to grant licenses in every town or village similarly circumstanced.

Scots Magistrate.—The Magistrate in a certain Scots burgh was lately presented with a gold chain procured by subscription. A Burgess, pressed to subscribe by a nobleman who had great influence in the burgh, replied, "No, no, my Lord, let the masters of slaves provide them with chains."—*Scotsman.*

Evasion of the New Marriage Act.—A couple having, during the week, given notice to the clerk of one of the chapels in Whitehaven, that the banns of their marriage were to be put up, and understanding that their names must be placed for three successive Sundays on the chapel doors, requested that in that case they might be fixed behind the door, as the Act did not forbid it. This is not unlike Lord Rochester's evasion of the Lamp Act who, as directed by that Act, had a lamp placed before his door, but never had it lighted, as the Act did not specify that it was necessary to do so.

Immediately on the arrival of news of the Marriage Act Amendment Bill having received the Royal Assent, the tenantry of the Marquis of Donegal determined to illuminate their houses, and the inhabitants of Belfast entertained his Lordship. The great town of Belfast and the surrounding country for many miles were brilliantly illuminated, and it was very remarkable, that the estate of Arthur Chichester, Esq., who claimed the title after the death of the present Marquis, appeared quite in a blaze upon the occasion. On Wednesday, the 28th of Aug. a most magnificent feast was given to the Noble Marquis by nearly 300 of his tenants and friends in the town of Belfast. Many appropriate and loyal toasts were drunk upon the occasion, and the company did not separate until a very late hour. These rejoicings and tokens of respect and regard on the part of the inhabitants of Belfast, and the friends of the Noble Marquis, arose out of the passing of the Marriage Act Amendment Bill, which has placed the validity of the marriage of the Marquis beyond all question, and has relieved him and his family from the suspense which a protracted proceeding to do away the doubts raised by Mr. A. Chichester must naturally have occasioned. The ultimate success of these proceedings never was doubted by the Marquis or his friends; but Mr. Chichester thought proper to avail himself of all the tedious rules of law, to avoid a decision.—*Bell's Messenger Sept. 26.*

Affecting Incident.—A few years ago, in working to establish a new communication between two shafts of a mine at Fuhkin, the capital of Delicaria, the body of a miner was discovered in a state of perfect preservation and impregnated with vitriolic water. It was quite soft, but hardened on being exposed to the air. No one could identify the body; it was merely remembered that the accident by which he had been thus buried in the bosom of the earth, had taken place about fifty years ago. All enquiries about the name of the sufferer had already ceased, when a decrepid old woman, supported on crutches, slowly advanced towards the corpse, and knew it to be that of a young man to whom she had been promised in marriage more than half a century ago. She threw herself on the corpse, which had all the appearance of a bronze statue, bathed it with her tears, and fainting with joy at once more beholding the object of her affections. It is easier to conceive than trace the singular contrast afforded by that couple—the one, buried above fifty years ago still retaining the appearance of youth; while the other weighed down by age, evinced all the fervency of youthful love.

Union of the American Lakes with the Atlantic Ocean.—A few months more, and the Grand Western Canal will cause our inland seas and the ocean to mingle their great waters. Ten thousand men, or about that number, are now employed in the unrivalled enterprise—the offspring of the bold and masculine policy of our present Chief Magistrate. We have just been informed that a canal is to be cut from Providence, Rhode Island, to Worcester in the State of Massachusetts, the distance being about forty miles—We deem this canal of great importance to the city of New York. It will increase her commerce, and hasten her on, with other combining circumstances, to that desti-

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nity, when she will stand the London of the New World, and among the most powerful commercial empires that has ever arisen and flourished in any period of society.—*New York Paper*.

Ultra Meanness. — *English Players in Paris.* — A private letter from the French Capital gives the following edifying account of a negotiation between the English Players and the magnanimous Cabinet of Louis the Desired: — “ Mr. Penley and his company found themselves here in the utmost difficulty. Pillaged by the Proprietor of the Theatre *Porte St. Martin* of their just profits, and at an immense loss by their journey and sojourn in Paris, the Manager asked leave to perform in a small private Theatre in the *rue Chantereine*. The application threw the whole Cabinet into a dilemma — such as might have been caused by a treaty of commerce or a declaration of war. The point was debated in several successive councils, while the poor players were kept dancing attendance for nearly a fortnight in suspense, and at a ruinous cost of living in the hotels of Paris. At length Penley was informed, that he might have liberty for his performances — not in the Theatre he asked for — but in the *Salle Favart* one-fourth times as large as was required, the fitting up of which would cost an immense sum, and which had no recommendation whatever, but that it belongs to the brother-in-law of M. Corbière, the Minister of the Interior — for whose family patronage a poor company of English Comedians were to be duped and re-pillaged! I believe the secret annals of Ministerial meanness afford nothing worse than this — but it did not succeed. Another of the Ministers interfered, and the *primum nobile* of the Cabinet — fear, name in to the decision of the point. It was apprehended, that the central situation of the *Salle Favart* might attract obstructions to the performance, and as the English Ambassador warmly espoused the claims of Mr. Penley, the little private Theatre was finally granted, and the Ministerial Rulers of France thus finished a negotiation, worthy of the Cabinet which, in its wisdom, ordained *Tulma* not to name the stage, in the character of *Sylla*, with his hands behind his back, because such was a common habit of Napoleon! — The representations of the English plays go on quietly enough, and are patronized by a number of amateurs of *La Littérature Anglaise*, and opposers of the new system of *French Politesse*.”

March from Canterbury to London. — Mr. Barnard West, the celebrated pedestrian, having backed himself lately to travel on foot from Canterbury to Westminster-bridge (fifty-six miles) in eleven hours, for 100 sovereigns, he commenced his laborious task at three o'clock in the morning. He went off at the rate of six miles an hour, and did eighteen miles in three hours, when he halted for the space of a few minutes, and took some slight refreshment. He did the next ten miles in one hour and fifty minutes, and the half was completed in two minutes under five hours. The pedestrian ate a chicken, and stretched himself on a straw mattress, and having halted half an hour, he proceeded at the rate of five miles an hour; he had done forty-two miles in seven hours and three quarters, and, after resting again a quarter of an hour, he started, evidently fatigued, to do the remaining fourteen miles in three hours. He did ten miles a minute over two hours, and he won the match with three minutes to spare.

Extraordinary Circumstance. — (From a New York paper of the 30th of July.) — On Monday the 8th instant, a small terrier dog was put on board the sloop *ANNA MARIA*, to be transported to Rhode Island. In the course of the day, there having been a rough sea, the dog exhibited symptoms of illness, and appeared scarcely able to walk. In the evening he could not be found, and it was concluded that he had fallen overboard. Nothing more was thought of the circumstance until the 30th ult, when the steward having occasion to open a small water locker, (about 2½ feet square) there found the poor animal alive. It is ascertained that the locker was fastened on the evening of the 8th, and had not again been opened till the 30th. The dog must therefore have been confined a period of twenty-wo days without food or drink. He was much emaciated of course, but now partakes of nourishment, and it is thought will recover.

The Harvest. — Sixty years have elapsed since a harvest so abundant and favourably gathered has been experienced in this

country. The year 1762 was equally remarkable for fine weather and heavy crops, which were got in so early that in many places they were succeeded by turnips, which will also be the case in the present year.

Herrings have been so plentiful in Inverness market, that they sell a dozen, sixteen, and even twenty excellent herrings for a penny.—*Scotch Paper*.

A wit having lost the election to a fellowship at — College which was gained by a candidate of very inferior merit — “ Well,” said he, “ Pope is right — ‘ Worth makes the man; the want of it the *Fellow*.’ ”

The following is a literal copy of a medical certificate: — “ To the Overseers of gadleygreen this his to certify that Thomas Bowers his not Qualified for any employment his Consumption. A Comsumption. J. F — Surgeon Bridge-street Stayley Bridge.”

Mr. John Kemble is going to quit his Helvetic hermitage on a short expedition to Italy.

Mrs. Siddons is at present enjoying comparative retirement with good health, at Malvern.

We are requested to state, for the information of our sporting friends, that no game keeper has a right to require them to exhibit their certificates, without previously showing his own certificate and his *deputation*. — *Manchester Guardian*

The *Richmond Compiler* states, that Mr. Kean intends returning to the United States, in the fall, for the purpose of fulfilling his southern engagements.

Dissenters. — The General Turnpike Act, passed during the last Session, completely sets at rest the question of Dissenters being exempt from paying toll on Sundays, when proceeding to their usual places of worship. The Act states (section 32) that tolls shall not be demanded or taken “ of or from any person or persons going to or returning from his, her, or their usual place of religious worship, tolerated by law, on Sundays, or on any day on which divine service is by authority ordered to be celebrated.”

A Lady the other day was asked by an envious female acquaintance her age: “ Really,” said she, “ I do not know, but I must be about thirty.” “ It is very extraordinary,” replied the other, with a sneer, “ that you do not know your age.” “ I never count my years,” said the Lady; “ I am not afraid of losing a single year: none of my female friends will rob me of one.”

Preston Guild Masquerade. — The Preston Guild Masquerade, an account of which is included among our extracts, forms part of the festivities held by law and ancient usage every twentieth year. The institution of the festival is of the standing of five centuries, and is confirmed by Charters granted by Edward III, Richard II, and Charles II, whereby the burgesses were anciently enabled to hold certain pleas of land, &c. within their own precincts, and are now required to renew their claims to the rights, privileges, and freedom, which belong to them, in virtue of the Charter; which franchises devolve every twenty years into the hands of the Mayor and Corporation and become extinct if not renewed at these periods. It appears from the records of the borough, that there have been twenty Guilds in five hundred years, that in the two first centuries they were held at irregular periods but that since that time, beginning with the reign of Henry VIII, they have been celebrated regularly without intermission, every twenty years. In the time when Guilds were instituted, it was the practice to commit all great affairs, spiritual and secular, to the guardianship of some particular Saint, in conformity with his superstition, Preston Guild was placed under the patronage of St. John the Baptist, and this King of feasts always begins the Monday next after the decollation of the Baptist.

The Masquerade, to which we have alluded was held on the eleventh day of the Festival. — *Government Gazette*.

Mr. Canning's Speech.

MR. CANNING'S SPEECH AT THE CANNING CLUB, LIVERPOOL.

I am quite overpower'd (you'll believe me I trust)
With the claps and the shouts of a club so *ugust* ;
And shall never forget with what transport and glee,
You have toasted yourselves, our great Monarch, and me.
Out of doors tho' the laugh sure against us will go,
To behold with what *sceal* our own trumpets we blow,
Let the vulgar reflect, who us egoists call,
If we don't praise ourselves we shall get none at all.
When some ten years ago, by the weight of your purse,
You resolv'd you would have me for better or worse,
And by methods so *pure* put me into my seat,
I resolv'd I'd reward your exertions so great.
But so many want places, I could not snit all,
For if I pleas'd PETER, I disoblig'd PAUL ;
While TOM, DICK and HARRY, BEN, BON JACK and MICHAEL,
Laid the blame upon me, though't was fix'd by the *Cycle*.
But be of good comfort, and mind what I'm telling
[You know that quack-medicines I'm licens'd to deal in],
There's a certain rich cordial that's double-distill'd,
With which I well know all your bosoms are fill'd ;
'Tis the "Essence of Loyalty," generous juice !
You must keep it well cork'd and preserve it for use.
A very few drops, if judiciously taken,
When you get in a scrape, will at once save your bacon ;
And if shallow'd in doses, 'twill often convert
A man to a Member who'd hardly a shirt ;
While the veriest beggar among you may rise, Sir,
Collector to be, or at least Supervisor.

You remember the tug that we had with Old Nap,
How he *doubled* at last, and walk'd into our trap ;
How the generous Sir HUNSON in chains held him fast,
Until Death (for less cruel) reliev'd him at last ;
You remember (our national faith to display)
When the fighting was over, we shot the brave NEW
What immortal renown we at Manchester gain'd.
Where our swords were with blood of the Radicals stain'd ;
How when closely penn'd up in a corner we'd got em',
We knock'd em down, cut'em up, ran'em thro', shot'em ;
How the stoutest Reformer was forc'd to turn tail ;
How we shipt Cobbett off and clapp'd *Hust* into goal ;
Nor in our kind efforts thought fit to relax,
'Till we'd gagg'd em, and bound'em with *Six famous Acts* ;
And with the strong aid of the Holy Alliance,
Be reform both at home and abroad at defiance.
It's a very strange thing, when our foes are so humble,
That you loyal men should grow sulky and grumble.
You have danc'd, you have frolic'd—yon've eaten your fill,
And now you've got sober you carp at the bill.
Why, who thinks you, ever could ent such a dash,
Without paying the piper and sporting our cash ?
True, the tables are turn'd, and the Radicals laugh,
For their bellies are full, and they're fatter by half ;
And they preach now to us from the very same text
That we preach'd from to them, when so sorely perplex'd ;
And declare that for both individuals and nations,
When ground to the dust, the best remedy's "patience."
Recollect when our foes we so freely were killing,
You nobly resolv'd you would spend your last shilling,
And now you're bargain'd ;—it's rather too late ;
I would decently have you submit to your fate ;
You may shuffle, drink water, and lower your diet,
Beg or starve, hang or drown, if you'll only be quiet.
Thus you and your troubles I put on the shelf,
And now come to a subject more pleasing—myself.
I need scarcely inform you who know me so well,
How I've manag'd my cards, and have made my tricks tell ;
How my interest and duty I've always combin'd,
Nor could e'er see the last until both were conjoin'd,
—To Lisbon I went, well, my *duty* was clear,
I got by the job fourteen thousand a year ;
I came back when they'd found out a place for my use ;
Of the business I knew just as much as a goose,
But my *duty* at once to myself and my King
Requir'd me to yield, and to *peacock* the thing.
I agreed with the squad, just as brother with brother.

* A little knot of merchants and master tradesmen, who distribute the Borough Patronage, and in whose hands the Member is a mere puppet.

Tho' one friend I'd lampoon'd, and had shot another.
Till in a vagary 'twixt frolic and spleen,
One day I belanded, next libel'd, the *QUEEN* ;
Which so puzzled Old *GEORGE* (wh. lov'd her, no doubt),
In a strange fit of passion, he kick'd me right out.
Since when I've been foun'd ring like fish out of water ;
My *duty* now calls to a far distant quarter,
To govern some millions of simple Hindoos,
Who ne'er heard of *Reform*, nor will taxes refuse ;
And when I get there, I shall merit your curse,
If still true to myself, I don't look to my *purse*.
To leave good things here, I confess that I grudge,
But *GEORGE* won't have me, and so I must budge.
Since the Marquess has just made so free with his bullet
(I'd have sav'd him the job had fate favour'd my bullet),
I perhaps might have got to the top of the wheel,
And have led in the *Commons*, but for that *cursed Peel* ;
(A sad unlucky dog for so young a beginner,
Would to Heav'n that his father had made him a *spinner* !)
He, like a grim ghost's always crossing my way ;
At Oxford he beat me you know t'other day,
And all the world says he's to lead in my place,
But sure you don't call this "defeat" or "disgrace."
And now I'll conclude, for I'm got rather *dry*,
To keep up your spirits I'd have you all try.
Here's "Success to the Club" in a bumper of ale ;
We had best sink the *name*, for it's grown rather stale.
Liverpool, Aug. 1822.

The Curfew Bell.

AN ACCOUNT OF THE CURFEW BELL.

This utensil is called a *Curfew*, or *Couvre-fen*, from its use, which is that of suddenly putting out a fire : the method of applying it was thus—the wood and embers were raked as close as possible to the back of the hearth, and then the *Curfew* was put over them; the open part placed close to the back of the chimney ; by this contrivance, the air being almost totally excluded, the fire was of course extinguished.

This *Curfew* is of copper, riveted together, as solder would have been liable to melt with the heat. It is ten inches high, 16 inches wide, and nine inches deep. The Rev. Mr. Goslin, of Canterbury, to whom it belongs, says it has been in his family for time immemorial, and was always called the *Curfew*. Some others of this kind are still remaining in Kent and Sussex.

Probably *Curfews* were used in the time of William the Conqueror, for the more ready obedience to the laws of that King, who in the first year of his reign, directed that on the ringing of a certain bell thence called the *Curfew-bell*, all persons should put out their fires and candles. Whether a bell was ordered to ring expressly for the purpose, or whether the signal was to be taken from the *Vespers-bell* of the Convents, is a matter in which antiquaries are not entirely agreed. The *Curfew-bell* is still rung in many of our country towns.

M. Pasquier, in his *Recherches de la France*, says, the ringing of the *Curfew-bell* was a custom long established in particular towns in France, and originated, as he supposes, in times of tumult and sedition. But the earliest instance he gives, is no farther back than the year 1331, when the city of Leon, which had forfeited its privileges, was reinstated therein by Phillip de Valois, who directed that for the future a *Curfew-bell* should be rung in a certain tower in that city at the close of the day. He then, from Polydore Virgil, cites the regulation of William the Conqueror (respecting that signal), and says, that he does not see that he brought it from France, nor does he believe that the French took it from him. If he had assigned any reasons for this positive incredulity, it would have given his readers a better opinion of his candour. He adds, that under the reigns of Charles VI. and VII. it came much into use ; though from what can be gathered from his vague, and even contradictory manner of treating this question, it seems doubtful, whether it was ever universally practised in France.

MARRIAGES.

At Mary-la-bonne Church, J. E. Leeds, Esq., eldest son of Sir George Leeds, Bart., of Croxtion Park, to Marian, only daughter of the late W. T. Stretton, Esq.

On Tuesday, the 10th of Sept. J. L. Adolphus, Esq., Barrister at Law, to Clara, eldest daughter of the late R. Richardson, Esq. of Streatham.

BIRTHS.

In Portman-square, the Countess of Manvers, of a daughter.
At his seat, Adlestrop House, Gloucestershire, the lady of C. Leigh, Esq. of a daughter.

MISCELLANEOUS.

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Preston Guild Masquerade.

(From the *Kaleidoscope*)

Friday evening was appointed for the Masquerade. It was certainly a scene which will render the New Exchange of Preston memorable throughout the lives of all who were present, and will be a frequent and favourite topic of conversation, at least, until the year 1842.

The Company began to assemble soon after eight o'clock, and continued pouring in, from carriages and sedans until eleven; at which time there must have been from eight hundred to a thousand persons in the room. Before nine o'clock the various characters had commenced their promenading and performing. Every description of representation, serious and comic, here surrounded us; and the multifarious cries, addresses and solicitations, the huntman's horn, the postman's bell, violin screeches and now then a watchman's rattle springing, rendered it a lively and merry, but by no means a boisterous scene. All was order and freedom combined; and amidst the noisy, there were many silent, melancholy characters, exhibiting a laughable contrast to the aspects of their busier neighbours. The addresses and masks were, in general, very appropriate to the subjects represented, and so perfect were the disguises, that it was impossible to recognise the most intimate friends. We will endeavour to describe a few of the whimsicalities of the merry crowd, and our readers must take the following as a sample of the whole. We will add the names of the parties in those instances in which we ascertained the identity of the characters, after the time of unmasking.

A Dancing Bear. He was dressed in a huge hide of fur, a staff in his hand, and a chain round his middle, by which his master, an old soldier, secured him. He frequently danced, but one was very unruly, when a Chelsea bunman passed him; he roared and snatched, at the eakes until a countryman in a smock frock approached, and, cracking his long whip, said, "Master, man aw whip him a bit?"

Night and a Spectre. Night was clothed in deep black, with a thick impenetrable veil, covering nearly all his person. The veil was studded all over with golden stars and planets, and formed a fine representation of the clear sky on a dark night. Some of the planets were full, others in partial occultation; Saturn with his ring was visible. The veil was folded gracefully on his left arm. In his right hand he held a black mirror, having a transparent "centre, in which the crescent moon was shining. With this, upheid, he allured the spectre to follow him. The spectre in perfect white, and with outstretched arms, and solemn pace, obeyed the summons in awful silence. The effect was beautiful. (Night, Mr. Paul, of Liverpool; Spectre, Mr. Heron.)

Four Choristers. These were gentlemen dressed in the cathedral costume and performed several vocal pieces admirably. During the evening they sang several excellent glees to the Lady Mayoress, accompanying themselves with the chime of glass bells. (Messrs. Heron, Isherwood, Crossley and Guest.)

A Letter Carrier. He had first his bell, and went round collecting letters. Afterwards he brought in a vast number of letters to deliver with whimsical directions. (Mr. Dewhurst.)

A Chinese Mandarine. Exactly the representative of the figures in the tea-shops.

A French Barber. He was excellently dressed in a red jacket, with a bouquet at his breast and cleverly introduced his curling irons, and a tinsel of French palaver, when he perceived a stray curl. He was attended by a journeyman, who assisted him most officiously. (Mr. Hilton, of Holton, and Mr. R. Donnison, jun of Kilnwick Percy.)

A Merry Yorkshireman. "He had come from Halifax to see Masquerade and was quite satisfied with delight. (Lord Molyneux.)

A Wounded Soldier. He hobbled about with a lame leg, having been wounded at Waterloo, had no pension, and got his living by fideling. He played a variety of tunes, (sometimes to the dancing bear,) and had always a crowd around him. He sustained the character admirably, and collected pence to the amount of half-a-crown. (Mr. Henry Whittle) He was afterwards a Captain of the 2d Flintshire Militia.

Joe Grimoldi. This was a well dressed and well acted representation of a humorous clown. (Mr. Duckfield Astley.)

Giles Scroggins. Poor Giles was well personated, both in his condition temporal and condition spiritual; he was first Mr. Scroggins, and then his "ghastly ghost." (Mr. Taylor.)

Bob Logie. Here was bob in all his glory; he queered the coves, famously; and although neither Tom nor Jerry were with him he was up, down right, and fly, to every thing. (Mr. Westmacott of London.)

A Jew Pedlar. He solicited custom most industriously for his shop, No. 10, Monmouth-street, and circulated bills, announcing the variety of articles in which Isaac Moses so largely dealt concluding with a note bene: "Every articles used at masquerades & characters bought sold

altered, and pulled to pieces, also supplied to those who have none of their own." He was correctly dressed and boarded. (Mr. Brook, of Liverpool.)

Signore Marvelloso Impostoro. These gentleman had a small gallanty show fixed on a pole, in which were represented views of what he had witnessed in his wonderful travels. "There, Ma'am, is a view of Turkey in Europe;" a string was pulled, and a well-shaped turkey appeared; "there, Ma'am, that is in Europe; is it not very imposing?" "Here, Sir, is a view of the Red Sea;" immediately a red figure of the letter C was visible. "There, Sir, is not that imposing? He had a fine total eclipse, i. e. totally darkening his box, with many such "views," and excited great mirth. (Mr. Boxendale who, at the Guild Mask of 1802, was an excellent auctioneer.)

A Leipzig Collegian. He was dressed in the costume of his university, and wore a gold prize medal. (Mr. Richard Smith, of Liverpool.)

A Gottingen Student. In correct dress. (Mr. Cornelius Bourne, of Liverpool.)

A Captain of Liverpool Artillery. An admirable personation of an officer in this ancient volunteer corps. His dress had evidently endured service in the late war (Mr. James Bourne, of Liverpool.)

A Rat-catcher. In full display, ornamented belt, (Mr. Date, of Liverpool.)

An old Lady of 1700. (Miss Wainhouse, of Leeds.)

Two Quaker Ladies. Very neat, (Misses E. and C. Wainhouse.)

A Carniolan Peasant Girl. She was well dressed in the holiday clothes of Upper Carniola. (Miss Brooke, of Liverpool.)

Two British Tars. These were well represented. Lord Grey de Wilton and Mr. Marsden, of Liverpool.

Isaac Mendoza. He was dressed in his sparing jacket, and wore immense boxing-gloves. (Mr. Lingard.)

A Servant Girl. She had all the appearance of a hard-working charwoman, with blue bedgown and linen cap. (Mr. Hesketh, of Rufford half.)

North American Indian and his Wife. Those were very conspicuous, being richly dressed as native Indians the hero having a huge and very beautiful war-club. Sir R. and Lady Brooks.)

An Hussar. This was a splendidly-dressed character. (Mrs. Samuel Grinshaw.)

Mary Queen of Scots. An interesting representation. (Mrs. Braham.)

A Sicilian Peasant. Very elegant. (Miss Bolton.)

Dr. Pangloss. This was well dressed, "My name is Peter Pangloss L.L. D., to which has lately been added the appellation of A. S. S. I am about to publish a work on the propagation of pigeons; allow me the honour of your name as subscriber. (Mr. R. Bonfield.) The same character was also sustained by Mr. Hewitt.

Chelsea Bunman. Well performed. (Mr. Sherrington. He was afterwards an Officer of the 16th Hussar.)

A Watchman. Dispersed vagrants, kept the peace, and called the hour. (Mr. Throughton.)

A French Barber. Correctly dressed. (Mr. Wormand.)

Dr. Syntax. He walked about, perusing Latin, and pronouncing soliloquies very solemnly.

Douglas. (Mr. Hennett.)

A Waggoner and a Jew. (Messrs. J. and G. Crossley.)

An Antiquated M. D. Well performed by Dr. W. Alexander.

Robinson Crusoe and his Man Friday. These were well represented, and were much noticed.

A Black African. An interesting and youthful man. (Mr. E. Gorst, jun.)

Speaker of the House of Commons. He was arrayed in his state-day robe and full-bottomed wig. "Order, order! Order at the bar! The question is, that this House do make itself merry. Those who are of that opinion say Aye; those of the contrary opinion say 'No' The 'Ayes' have it." All the questions he put were carried without a division. (Mr. John Smith, of Liverpool.)

Two Witches. These were two, who, besides their natural character of Lancashire witches, became two of Shakspear's enchantresses. (Misses Gorst.)

Flying Stationer. Last dying speeches, lists, of the races, songs, new and old, Irish Bells, &c. (Mr. Rogerson, Blackburn.)

Randolph. This was a fine humorous representation. In the true costume of the red-nosed toper, he walked about, treating all he met with

some really excellent sack. His bottle was twenty times emptied and replenished (Mr. King,) of Kirkham.)

Ann Page. With powdered hair, green stomacher, and crimson silk gown, she looked most truly a "sweet Ann Page." (Mrs. Townley Parker.) The same character was sustained by *Miss Bourne*, of Liverpool, *Ann Albanian Peasant Girl*. Characteristically dressed. *Mr. Hutton*.

Harlequin. This was well dressed and well performed. (Mr. H. Ward, of Liverpool.)

Female Ballad-Singers. A group of these amusing vagrants was well represented. (The Hon. E. Stanley, Mr. Horrocks, and others.)

Betty Cummins, o' Rachow. She spoke the dialect admirably, and entered fully into the spirit of broad provincialisms. (Miss Braithwaite, of Upholland.)

A Jew Pedlar. He was Mosically active, and vended his "trinkets-trouvenans," as Betty Cummins called them, with great skill. (Mr. James Pedder.)

Sir Walter Raleigh. He seemed as if he was the only resurrection of Queen Elizabeth's court, and appeared silently to deplore the absence of his renowned contemporaries and their famous Queen. (Mr. Jos. Lingard.)

Sir Mark Magnum. The character was immediately recognised by all who had seen Mr. Mathews's last performances. He had his wand and ribbon, and was "just returned from the dinner; plenty of turtle, champaigne, and all that sort of thing; and then such good humour, such laughing, and every thing in the world!" It was well sustained. (Mr. Brown, of London.)

A fine Child, with a whistle and rattle. He was in leading-strings followed by a nurse, and, as he was five feet eleven inches high, was thought to be a bouncing infant. (Mr. Foster.)

Friar Tuck. This character was sustained by Mr. Haigh, of Halifax who afterwards changed to.

Robin Hood. He was very successful.

An old English Lady. She was dressed in full ancient court dress, flowered silk gown, high head-dress, and monstrous hoops. (Mr. Wilbraham.)

Don Quixote. He exhibited all the traits of ridiculous chivalry, so worthy of the romantic Knight.

A vulgar Countrywoman. Well dressed, and well performed. (Hon. T. Powis.)

An Arab Chief. He was richly attired, and looked the character extremely well. (Lord Linton.)

An English Gipsy Girl. This was a charming picture, the looks and the drapery quite characteristic. (Miss Henrietta Fielding.)

An elderly Quaker Lady. She walked, talked, and made herself as agreeable as any good friend. (Captain Langton.)

A Flower Girl. She distributed her myrtles most bewitchingly. (Miss Sergent.)

A Prince of Zeloco. He was superbly dressed, and verified the proverb of "fine feathers making fine birds." He sustained the character very ably (Mr. Ollivant, jun. of Manchester.)

Richard III. He was magnificently arrayed, and the character well supported. (Mr. Jos. Bray.)

There was a variety of other characters: Mr. Caton was a *Hibernian*; Mr. Petty, a *Reaper*; Mrs. Petty, a *Quakeress*; Mr. Cleugh, a *Fiddler*; Mr. T. S. Dean, an *Hussar Officer*; there were some pretty *Fortune-tellers*; a *Market carrier*, with a badge; Mr. Addison, jun. was a *Spanish Grandee*; Mr. Lodge was *Sir John Falstaff*; Misses Jerninghams were in a beautiful fancy dresses; Mr. Miller, a *farmer*, Miss Harriet Rawsthorne, a *Quakeress*; Mr. Fielding, jun. a *Justice*; Mr. Corry, jun. a *Watchman*; Mr. Troughton, jun. a *Highland Chieftain*; Mr. Prest, of Liverpool, was *Hamlet*; Mr. Thomas Power, of Liverpool, a *Spanish Cavalier*; Mr. Bromiow, a *Dealer in Bunbury Cakes*; Mr. Wm. Taylor, a *Rustic*; Mr. Ryecroft, of Bolton, a *Jew Queen Merchant*; there was a charming female *Ballad-singer*, who vanished before she was discovered; a *mail coach Guard*; *Officers of army and navy*; *Corsairs, Sultans, and Sultanas*; *Abbots and Abbesses*; *Irish Harvesters*; *Morris dancers*; *Rolla*, well dressed; *Dutchman and his Wife*; *Spanish Lovers*; *French Cooks and Triessians*; *Serenaders*; *Hackney coachmen*; *Flower girls*; *Chinese Indians*; *Chirgymen*; *Lawyers*, and with whom we cannot more fully engage, as we must ourselves attend to the brief.

The broad humour of the scene was kept up until twelve o'clock; after which the company unmasked, and dancing commenced as at a fancy ball. There was infinite enjoyment in the recognition of friends and acquaintance in their various costumes; and the mirthful multitude did not totally separate until half-past four o'clock.—*Liverpool Courier*, Sept. 18.

Hydrophobia.

To the Editor of the Morning Chronicle

Sir,

Observing in your excellent Journal of this day* a letter under the head of "Hydrophobia," wherein it is said that Dr. Thomas, in his "Modera Practice of Physic," assigns as one of the pre-disposing causes of canine madness, food in a putrid state, and a deficiency of water; I beg leave to state, that in Lisbon, there are several hundreds, nay, I may say, thousands of dogs, wandering through the public streets, not the property of any person, and depending upon chance for their subsistence; but during a residence of six years there I never knew a single instance of hydrophobia, and I attribute it to the excellent Portuguese law which compels every shoemaker (by far the most numerous description of trade-men in Portugal), to place before his door, a vessel filled with fresh water every morning, upon pain of heavy fine.

I remain, Sir, your very obedient servant,

E. G.

* Vide last Saturday's CALCUTTA JOURNAL, page 8.

Ireland.

FROM THE EDINBURGH REVIEW.—No. LXXIII.

1. *Reflections on the State of Ireland in the Nineteenth Century.* pp. 276. London, 1822.—2. *Thoughts and Suggestions on the Education of the Peasantry of Ireland.* pp. 58, London, 1820.—3. *Observations on the State of Ireland.* By the Earl of Blessington, pp. 88, London, 1822.—4. *State of Ireland Considered; with an Inquiry into the History and Operation of Tithes*, 2d Edition, pp. 154 Dublin, 1810.

(Continued from Page 28.)

Besides the repeal of the protecting and countervailing duties, and the reduction of the Custom and Excise duties, it would be of the greatest advantage to Ireland were the reduced Excise duties collected in such a way as would permit the business of distilling, brewing, malting, tanning, &c. to be conducted on a small scale. Such was the case in Ireland thirty years ago. But the persons who were then intrusted with the management of the Irish Revenue, determined, whether from ignorance or corruption has never been clearly ascertained, to place all works subject to Excise duties in the hands of large capitalists. To effect this object, laws were passed which regulated the manner in which duties should be charged, in such a way as rendered it possible for any one who had not a large capital to continue in the trade. The smaller class of distillers, brewers, tanners, &c. were, in consequence, driven from their business, and mostly ruined; and many of the remoter districts of the country were thus deprived of a market for their produce, and could not, without great difficulty, obtain supplies of spirits, beer, leather, &c. A strong temptation was thus created to engage in the trade of illicit distillation—a temptation which the present exorbitant duties, and the system of town-land fines, has rendered altogether irresistible. In 1807, the Commissioners appointed to inquire into the fees, emoluments, &c. of public offices in Ireland, in their Report on the Excise, calculated, that one-third part of the spirits consumed in Ireland was illegally distilled! To put a stop to this illegal traffic, and to check the prevalence of those predatory and lawless habits which always mark the character of the smuggler, the simple and obvious plan was, to have reduced the duty on legally distilled spirits, and to have collected them in such a way as would have broken down the monopoly of the large distillers, and enabled smaller capitalists to set up distilleries in the remote and less frequented districts of the country. But ministers resolved to go to work differently. Instead of attempting to put down illicit distillation by rendering it unprofitable, they resolved to suppress it by the strong hand of power—to make the vengeance of the law counteract a crime, all the temptations to indulge in which, were left unimpaired! In pursuance of this insensate scheme, they devised a system of unequalled injustice and oppression—a system which involves both the innocent and the guilty in one common ruin. Besides the penalties inflicted on delinquents, including *transportation for seven years*, the novel expedient was resorted to, of imposing a heavy fine upon every parish, town-land, manor-land, or lordship, in which an unlicensed still, or part of a still, should be found! There is no defence against the fine, unless the defendant can prove that the articles were not found, or that they were left for the purpose of subjecting him to fine. The most perfect good faith is of no avail; and many instances have occurred of magistrates, who had devoted their whole time and energies to the suppression of illicit distillation, being completely ruined by the fines imposed on their estates!

No one can regret that this infamous scheme has totally failed of its object. Instead of illicit distillation and smuggling being suppressed,

* The Reverend Mr. Chichester's Letter to British Member of Parliament, p. 94.

they are now become almost universal.* A large proportion of the peasantry have been trained to live in a state of open and habitual contempt of the Laws, and to brave their utmost vengeance. The tendency of such a state of things to promote secret combinations, outrages, and even rebellion, is too striking and obvious to require to be pointed out. In most parts of Ireland, no excise officer dare venture to seize a still, if he is not supported by a company of soldiers; and bloody and ferocious contests are, in consequence, daily taking place between the military and smugglers. The distillery system of Ireland seems, to use the words of a most accurate observer, to have been formed for the perpetration of smuggling and anarchy. It has caused the evils both of savage and civilized life, and rejected all the advantages which they contain. The calamities of civilized warfare are in general inferior to those produced by the Irish distillery laws; and I doubt whether any nation of modern Europe, which is not in a state of actual revolution, can furnish instances of legal cruelty commensurate to those which I have represented.†

The Earl of Blessington, one of the Irish representative Peers, and generally a supporter of ministers in his Letter to the Marquis of Wellesley, corroborates all that we have here stated respecting the oppressive and injurious operation of the Irish distillery laws. 'I have raised,' says his Lordship, 'my voice again and again in opposition to this system, but hitherto without effect. It is a system as injurious to the morals of the people, both civil and military, as it is tyrannical and unprofitable.' (p. 62.)

We have already demonstrated, that the reduction of the Irish Excise duties on spirits, beer, and other articles, so far from occasioning any diminution of revenue, would be among the most effectual means that could be devised for increasing it. But supposing we were wrong in this conclusion, ought so detestable a system of oppression and abuse—so fruitful a source of crime, outrage, and rebellion—to be maintained, because it puts a few hundred thousand pounds into the coffers of the Treasury? If Mr. Vansittart declines answering this question in the affirmative, why does he not immediately introduce a bill for the reduction of the duties? He may depend upon it, he will never otherwise be able to relieve the country from the great and constantly increasing evils of illicit distillation and smuggling.

VI. Population.—The late extraordinary increase of population in Ireland has, by bringing an excessive supply of labour into the market, contributed equally with the increase of taxation to depress the condition of the peasantry, and to prevent their acquiring a taste for the comforts and conveniences of civilized life. Seventy years ago, Ireland was one of the thinnest peopled countries in Europe, and now she is one of the most densely peopled. Sir William Petty, who surveyed a large proportion of the kingdom, and who had the best means of acquiring correct information, estimated the population of Ireland in 1672, at 1,100,000 † It would appear, from a computation of Captain South's, that the population had declined, in 1695, to 1,034,000. By a poll tax return of 1731, of the accuracy of which, however, considerable doubts are entertained, the population amounted to 2,010,221. According to the returns of the hearth-money collectors, the number of houses in Ireland in

1754, was 395,439	2,372,634
1767, was 424,616	2,544,276
1777, was 448,426	2,690,556
1785, was 474,323	2,845,932
1788, was 650,000	3,000,000
1791, was 701,102	4,206,612§

In 1813, a census was taken in several of the Irish counties; but for some reason or other, it was not taken in others. In 1821, however, a census was taken in them all; and, according to the official returns, it appears that Ireland contains a population of 6,846,919; viz.

Leinster,	1,785,702
Munster,	2,005,303
Ulster,	2,001,966
Connacht,	1,053,918
 Total,	 6,846,919

Doubts may very reasonably be entertained of the correctness of the estimates of the population here given in the earlier part of last century. But these inaccuracies do not affect the general conclusion respecting its late unprecedented increase. Sir William Petty, Sir William Temple, Primate Boulter, Bishop Berkeley, and Dean Swift, all well in-

* It was stated in the debates in Parliament in 1819, that 5325 individuals had been committed to prison in the course of the preceding six years for illicit distillation, of which nearly 4000 were convicted.

† The Reverend Mr. Chichester's Letter to a British Member of Parliament, pp. 92-107.

‡ Political Anatomy of Ireland, p. 17, edit. 1719.

§ Newenham on the Population of Ireland, p. 94. Wakefield, vol. ii. p. 684.

formed and accurate observers, who wrote prior to 1740, join in representing Ireland as exceedingly destitute of inhabitants, and as being essentially a grazing country. To such an extent, indeed, was the pasture system carried, that in 1727, a bill was introduced into Parliament, under the auspices of Primate Boulter, and passed into a law, to compel every occupier of 100 acres of land to cultivate at least five acres, under a penalty of forty shillings! As might be supposed, this statute had no effect. Cultivation was not extended, nor did the population begin to increase, until the relaxation of the penal laws affecting the Catholics in 1782, and the abolition of the restraints on the commerce of Ireland in 1784. A powerful, but injudiciously contrived effort was then made to stimulate the dormant energies of the peasantry. The Irish legislators thought themselves bound, holding out fictitious encouragement, to make amends for the partial and unjust regulations by which the Parliament of England had pressed and fettered the industry of their countrymen*. Their intentions were unquestionably liberal and patriotic; but the result has shown, that the best intentions, when not under the control and guidance of sound political science, may be as injurious as the worst. In vain was it urged, that, however advantageous in the mean time, wherever measures intended to promote the industry of any country, exceed the mere removal of such obstacles as prevent the accumulation of capital and the freedom of competition, they are sure to be ultimately prejudicial. All the machinery of the mercantile system was set in motion; and, in imitation of the policy of England, very high bounties were granted on the exportation of corn, and other raw produce. An extraordinary extension of tillage was the immediate consequence of this unnatural enhancement of prices. But the want of capital, and the consequent impossibility of finding tenants capable of taking large farms, obliged the proprietors to divide their estates into comparatively small portions. Large tracts of pasture land were broken up, and let in farms of from ten to twenty, and fifty acres; and thus the stimulus intended to act exclusively on agriculture, has had a much more powerful effect in causing the subdivision of farms, and in increasing the merely agricultural population of the country.

* Large farms, says Mr. Newenham, 'of from 500 to 1500 and 2000 acres, once so common in Ireland, hold actually no sort of proportion to farms of from 10 to 30 or 40 acres. In the county of Down, Mr. Dabordien says, that farms run from 20 to 40, 50, and, in some instances, as far as 100 acres. Such is the case in most other parts of Ireland. For several years past, the landlords of that country have been much in the habit of letting their lands in small divisions. Besides this, the cottier system, or the giving of a certain quantity of land as an equivalent for wages, prevails throughout most parts of Ireland. In fact, upwards of four-fifths of the Irish people are subsisted directly on the produce of the land which they hold.—*Inquiry into the Population of Ireland*, p. 270.

Mr. Wakefield's great work contains much valuable information respecting the disastrous effects produced by this minute division of landed property, and the consequent rapid increase of population. But the length to which this article has already extended, will not allow us to make any extracts from his Work. We cannot, however, resist laying the following quotations from the lately published works of Mr. Corwen and Dr. Roza, before our readers. They set the evils of the cottage, or small farming system, and the necessity of counteracting them, in the most striking point of view.

* The size of farms, says Mr. Corwen, whose travels in Ireland were published in 1818, 'from 15 to 30 acres, would give an average of about 22 or 23 acres to each. Portions of these are again sublet to cottiers whose rents are paid by labour done for their tenants, from whom they sometimes receive milk, and some other necessaries. These running accounts are an endless source of dissatisfaction, of disputes, and of contention at the quarter-sessions. In some of the most populous parts of Ireland, there is supposed to be an inhabitant for every acre, while the cultivation of the soil, as now practised, does not afford employment for a third of that population. The rents of the small sublet portions of land become so high to the actual cultivators, as to preclude all profitable returns from their labours. The population of the country is increased far beyond the capital of the husbandry employed in husbandry and the supernumerary individuals are compelled to subsist on the produce of other's labour, to which they have no power of contributing.'

Dr. Roza's excellent work on the Fever in the North of Ireland, was published in 1819.

* Throughout the extensive counties of Tyrone, Donegall, and Derry, says he, 'the population is only limited by the difficulty of procuring food. Owing to the universal adoption of the cottier system, and to the custom of dividing farms among the sons, on the death of the father, the labouring classes are infinitely more numerous than are required for the purposes of industry. Under these circumstances, they are engaged in a constant struggle for the bare necessities of life, and never enjoy its comforts.' p. 8.

* Stat. 23. and 24. Geo. III. cap. 10.

In another part of his work, Dr. Rogan observes—

'Throughout this province (Ulster), the division of land is extremely minute, so much so as in some instances to appear almost incredible. I have been assured by a gentleman who possesses an estate on the northern coast of Donegal, that many of his tenants hold a portion of land, only capable of producing as much oats as furnish one half, or even one fourth of the straw required for fodder to a milch cow during the winter, and that by this scale his rents are paid. The inhabitants live throughout the year almost entirely on potatoes, which they plait on the bog, and manure with the seaweed thrown on their shores; oatmeal being considered more as a luxury, than as a regular article of diet. The division of land fitted for cultivation throughout the mountains of the interior, is not upon a much larger scale; so that the food of the inhabitants, even in times of plenty, is of the poorest kind which human beings can subsist upon; and, in seasons of scarcity, no substitute can be procur'd.' p. 93.

It is unnecessary to adduce any further evidence of the evils to which Ireland is subject from the too great division of landed property, and the redundancy of population. They are too notorious to be denied, and too serious and alarming to be any longer disregarded. It has been proposed, with the view of checking the excessive increase of population, to prohibit, by law, further splitting of farms. But so violent an encroachment on the right of property could not be submitted to. The same desirable object may, however, be attained by less exceptionable means. The high bounties on the exportation of corn, which were the first great cause of the subdivision of farms, have long since ceased to operate. But the abuses in the system of creating freeholds in Ireland, have had a similar, and still more powerful influence.

'The qualification of freeholders is the same in Ireland as in England a clear forty shillings interest for life; but as it is customary in Ireland to insert lives in all leases, freeholders are created without the actual possession of property being considered as necessary, and their votes are considered as the right of the landlord.'—*Wakefield*, vol. ii. p. 300.

So long as Catholics were excluded from the exercise of the elective franchise, this liability to abuse was of less consequence. But since 1792, when this privilege was restored to them, the system of creating votes, and of manufacturing freeholders, has been carried to an extent, of which people in England can have no idea.

'The passion for acquiring political influence prevails,' says Mr. Wakefield, 'throughout the whole country; and it has an overwhelming influence upon the people; to divide, and subdivide, for the purpose of making freeholders, is the great object of every owner of land; and I consider it one of the most pernicious practices that has ever been introduced into the operations of political machinery. It reduce the electives franchise nearly to universal suffrage, to a population who, by the very instrument by which they are made free, are reduced to the most abject state of personal bondage. I have known freeholders registered among mountain tenantry, whose yearly head rent did not exceed 2s. 6d.; but, lying upon this half-crown tenure, were obliged to swear to a derivative interest of 40s. per annum. This right, instead of being an advantage to the freeholder, is an excessive burden, as he is obliged to attend elections at the command of the agent, often with great inconvenience; and is ordered to vote for the object of his landlord's choice, with as little ceremony as the Jamaican planter would direct his slave to the performance of the meanest offices.' Vol. ii. p. 301.

Mr. Wakefield has given several striking examples of the effects of this system. Down county, he tells us, contains thirty thousand freeholders, who elect the friends of the Marquis of Downshire without a contest.

'To insure this object, the Marquis's estate has been divided, subdivided, and again divided, until it has become a *warren* of freeholders, and the scheme has completely succeeded. The landed property of this nobleman exhibits, perhaps, the best specimen of political *agronomy* to be found in Ireland, and is a proof of the ingenuity of those by whom it was planned.' Vol. ii. p. 304.

Mr. Wakefield gives a variety of similar instances.

To put an end to this miserable system, and to rescue the peasantry from the degradation of being made mere offensive weapons, wielded by the rival candidates at elections for the annoyance of each other, without the smallest regard to their feelings or wishes, it appears to us, that the best way would be to confine the elective franchise to persons actually in possession of freehold or copyhold property of the real value of 10l. or 20l. a year, and to the occupiers of farms paying 60l. a year or upwards of rent. By an arrangement of this kind, the proprietor of small estates, and the really independent class, of freeholders, would attain that sanitary and much wanted influence and consideration, which they have never hitherto enjoyed in Ireland; and obvious inducements would be created to consolidate the smaller farms; and it would henceforth be impossible for a few noblemen to regulate the elections exclusively by the controlled suffrages of their *sorts*. Such a plan might be easily adopted, and it would be productive of the most extensively bene-

ficial effects. But if the qualification of freeholders be not raised, the next best plan would be to do it away entirely, and to communicate the elective franchise to all classes indiscriminately. Universal suffrage would not certainly prevent the members of the Legislature being chosen by voters driven to the poll, like cattle to a market; but it would take away, or very much weaken, the existing temptation to split farms, or to cover the whole country with potatoe-gardens and mud-cottages.

The trifling expence for which cabins can be erected in Ireland, and the facility of procuring small patches of ground afford temptations to early marriage.

'In England,' says Mr. Young, 'where the poor are in many respects in such a superior state, a couple will not marry unless they can get a house, to build which, take the kingdom through, will cost from 25l. to 60l.; half the life, and all the vigour and youth of a man and woman are passed, before they can save such a sum; and when they have got it, so burdensome are poor to a parish, that it is twenty to one if they get permission to erect their cottage. But in Ireland, the cabin is not an object of a moment's consideration; to possess a cow and a pig is an earlier aim; the cabin begins with a hovel that is erected with two days' labour; and the young couple pass not their youth in celibacy for want of a nest to produce their young in.'—*Tour in Ireland*, Appendix p. 61, 4to edit.

To Strike at the root of this pernicious system, the most effectual, and we think, all things considered, the most expedient and proper method would be, to prohibit, for twenty or thirty years, the erection of cottages, except in towns and villages, to which from five to ten acres of land were not attached. Such a measure would oppose a powerful obstacle to the excessive increase of the cottier population. And, taken in conjunction with the measure we have suggested respecting freehold qualifications, could hardly fail to have powerful and beneficial influence on the habits of the people.

It has been proposed to relieve Ireland of a portion of her redundant population, by an extensive plan of emigration. But to be advantageous, emigration must be made subordinate and supplementary to the measures we have proposed for relieving the peasantry from the oppressions to which they are subjected; and for checking their increase. Circumstanced as Ireland now is, the most extensive emigration would be of little or no service. It would merely afford greater facilities to the remaining population to gratify the prevailing habit of early marriage, and would not, therefore, occasion any permanent diminution of the supply of labour. But whenever the situation of the peasantry has been otherwise ameliorated, and a desire to improve their condition, and to obtain a share of the comforts and conveniences of life, been excited, the *vacuum* caused by emigration will not be filled up, and it will consequently be productive of the greatest advantage.

It has long been the fashion with Ministerial class of politicians, to represent the disorders, crimes, and poverty of the Irish people as the result of uncontrollable and irremediable causes. We think we have demonstrated the utter fallacy and absurdity of this opinion; and have shown, beyond the possibility of doubt, that the discontent and poverty of the people of Ireland are entirely owing to the vicious political institutions of the country, and the misgovernment and oppression to which they have been subject. We have also endeavoured to point out the means by which these institutions might be most advantageously and safely reformed, and the people brought to place confidence in the laws, to venerate the constitution, and to emerge from barbarism. It was not to be expected that any single measure could afford a sufficiently remedy for the complicated and inveterate disorders produced by centuries of proscription and debasement; and the lengthened discussion into which we have entered, has evinced the necessity of a thorough reform being effected in almost all the institutions of the country. Half measures will not do. We can no longer afford to palter with abuse affecting the rights, feelings, and even existence of *several millions* of our fellow-subjects. 'No great nation has ever been ill treated with impunity.' Ireland is become too powerful to submit to continue a humble suitor—a *supplicant in formid pauperis*—for a redress of grievances. We had better yield with good grace what we shall not be able much longer to withhold. If Ministers have good sense and magnanimity enough to grant to the people of Ireland, of every sect and denomination, the fullest participation in all the privileges of the Constitution, and to adopt the other measures we have suggested, their affections may yet be conciliated; they will become happy, flourishing, and contented, and Ireland will be rendered the best defence and bulwark of the empire. But if Ministers continue obstinately and perversely to treat *six-sevenths* of the inhabitants as a degraded caste, and to cherish and support the various gross and disgraceful abuses of which they are the victims, dissension, terror and civil war will rage with increased violence and fury; our connexion with Ireland will prove a fruitful source of weakness, and of misery and degradation to ourselves, and will certainly be dissolved,—the instant it cannot be maintained by force of arms?

ASIATIC DEPARTMENT.

—41—

Opposition to the Government.

A groundless accusation rebounds upon the head of its author with a force proportioned to its atrocity. We smile, therefore, at a charge preferred against us by the BULL Party, that we are opposed to the Government, which is utterly unsupported by fact or logical deduction. On the contrary, we are ready to prove, that the supporters of this Paper are the best Friends of British Power and respectability in India; and that the little knot of nameless writers, leagued together to work the downfall of a Free Press, are the greatest enemies of both the Government and the country: and that if their career be not speedily checked, they will cast a foul blot upon the British name. Opposition to Government is a phrase, which may certainly admit of a variety of interpretations; but our Opponents do not mean to charge us simply with such opposition to the powers that be, as the English Ministry experience from the Whig Party in Parliament, and from the independent Journals throughout the three kingdoms. They have enough of penetration to perceive, that this would not suit their purpose: for they are aware that their friend and fellow-labourer, that bright emanation of the India House, the ASIATIC JOURNAL, bears testimony to the advantage this country must derive from "a local opposition, a liberal and generous party spirit, differing as to means but united as to end—*the public good*." Our Oriental Oracle, corrupted by the enjoyment of Eastern Luxury, and smitten with the charms of Arbitrary Rule, sees no moral beauty, nor political benefit, in such differences; but like Athalia of old, lays his hand upon his head, and cries—"Treason, treason!"

Disloyalty and open Rebellion are the atrocious charges brought against us, which, in the language of a Divine of scribbling notoriety, we fling from us with the scorn and contempt which the *mens concia recti* inspires; and throw back the charges on the unblushing front of their slanderous inventors. Why are we not charged with robbery, or murder, or any other atrocious offence? Because, we could then demand an investigation of our conduct in a Court of Law, before an upright Judge and an honest Jury of Englishmen, who would not be deluded by the foul aspersions of abandoned calumniators; but the artful contributors to the BULL, dread this ordeal, and knowing well the little chance of success, direct their whole efforts to mislead the government: despairing to make dupes in the Indian community, they hope to find them where they should least of all exist, an insult which Sycophants cannot avoid conferring on the objects of their servile adoration. But even here the good sense inherent in Englishmen will defeat their object, and teach those that ought to be the Guardians of Law and of good order to listen with mistrust to such as advise them to trample upon and disregard them.

Persons destitute of fixed principle or honesty, may easily become the friends or enemies of any thing as their own fluctuating ideas, or their interests for the time may prompt; and however zealous our Opponents pretend to be, the Power which should rely on them for support would build on a sandy foundation. Our attachment is to be founded on principles which nothing can shake. Impressed with a deep conviction of the perfect inability of this country to govern itself from the utter want of public spirit or political virtue, we look to its connection with Great Britain as a glorious mean in the hands of Providence of raising it from that state of debasement in which it had sunk. From the character of the nation which has acquired the ascendancy over India, we think it morally impossible for any Government established by them to become so bad while administered by Englishmen, that it would be the duty of any real FRIEND of INDIA to wish to see their influence at an end. Public spirit and expanded philanthropy—virtues so rare among the Natives of Asia,—are so interwoven with the nature of Britons, that were the Government ever so much to strive to keep their subjects in darkness and check the progress of improvement, these misanthropic efforts would prove in vain. The prohibition of colonization, and the restrictions long imposed on the Press, have done much to retard the day

that is approaching; still we see that benevolent spirit bursting through every restraint, and the dawn of Reason and Christianity, of moral and intellectual improvement, gradually diffusing their glorious influence. This lamp that has been kindled, no friend to his species would wish to see extinguished; and he must be blind, indeed, who does not see that the downfall of British Power would plunge the millions of Asia into primeval night.

But altho' such is our opinion, we are equally convinced that while the government continues to be administered by men and not by angels, nothing but the "control of public scrutiny," exercised by means of an unfettered press, can prevent the grossest corruptions and abuses of power in every department of the state; and that no degree of zeal and integrity in the heads of administration will suffice to check the growth of such abuses unless they could be endowed with the attribute of omniscience. The Press is the only auxiliary to which they can look for effectual aid; and it will always prove the most faithful ally of a good government.

This salutary engine, may not be exempt from sharing in the common lot of human imperfection; but are we to renounce the air which we require every moment of our existence because it may become impregnated with contagion? Are we to believe ourselves living in an infected atmosphere at the word of every quack who chooses to hazard the assertion. JOHN BULL tells us we act in opposition to Government in printing Letters on the affairs of Oude, reminding us of a Circular issued by Government in August last, respecting a Letter signed, "A NEW OBSERVER," published in the INDIA GAZETTE, which may be found in the JOURNAL for August last, page 851. Now, we deny that this is a case in point. The Letter of A NEW OBSERVER related to the private affairs of his Oudean Majesty's Palace, and followed a series of others of much the same character,—and was certainly well calculated to expose the Royal Family to ridicule and hurt their feelings, if they have any idea of decorum. The Circular expressed the desire of the Governor General in Council, that Editors should refrain from inserting any of "those strictures for which the information must at best be loose, but probably insidious while their purport is wantonly insulting to a Sovereign who has shewn the warmest attachment to the British interest." Now, what sort of "strictures" are here meant? Evidently such as those contained in the Letter—on his Majesty's domestic concerns, which, as it is the nature of such things to be *private*, could not, it was supposed, be ascertained with accuracy. But the circumstances on which a TRUE BRITON commented in our Paper were of a *public* kind; a Review of troops, not of the nature of a secret; the remarks were not "wantonly insulting" to his Majesty, nor even disrespectful. Therefore Lord Hastings could never have intended such remarks to come within the scope of his Circular, which was understood by many to have been dictated merely by his personal regard for the Nuwah of Lucknow. The important addition "*in Council*" may give it some degree of permanence, but even allowing it all the force of Law, the JOURNAL has not transgressed one title of it; and has far less been guilty of open rebellion. Such a charge is highly laughable, when it is considered that there are four Native Newspapers in Calcutta which might have inserted that or much worse, without being questioned; since no Circular, we believe, was addressed to them, and at all events they have since its issue published whatever they pleased, about his Majesty; and these papers in his own vernacular tongue, are read at the Court of Lucknow!

The Letter of A TRUE BRITON appears to us only a friendly hint to Government, that persons looking out for danger to the stability of British Power, would not be most apprehensive of an unfettered Press; and by inserting it we have shown that where real danger threatens we are the first to raise our voice against it. We hope, should a real emergency occur, the JOURNAL will operate as a watch tower to descry the distant foe and give early warning of his of approach: in such a case our pen and our pages shall be readily devoted to the cause of the State; the Gentlemen in the Company's Service will find the JOURNAL a ready channel to promulgate whatever may promote the common

good—the general safety in event of danger, the general improvement in time of peace. Our pages have never been closed against those who were desirous by their writings of promoting public good; and altho' we strive to maintain just principles and expose servility and delusion, in whatever quarter they may appear, we shall not deny a place to opinions differing from our own, while moderately and temperately expressed in language suited to the public eye, should they have utility for their aim.

Gas Lights.

To the Editor of the Journal.

SIR,

I perceive that "Gas Lights" have again occupied a corner in your JOURNAL; and as this mode of illumination appears to me deserving of much more encouragement than it has as yet met with from an Indian Public, I would venture, thro' the medium of your columns, to enquire, what objections, (for I have heard there are such,) exist against its general use in this City of Palaces.

A QUERIST.

P. S.—I observe by the list of Imports that 2 or 3 Apparatus have lately arrived from Europe; and I also understand that an Apparatus has been erected at Chinsurah by an Individual of that Settlement.

A. Q.

John Bull's Magnanimity.

To the Editor of the Journal.

SIR,

Should any of your readers require forexportation to England a select specimen of the cool impudence and malignant audacity which has so long distinguished our Indian "Slop Pail" alias JOHN BULL, let me entreat his attention to a production in the said "Slop Pail" of to-day day, signed "CAPITAL," and next let me enquire, of any of the supporters or admirers of "John Bull," what sort of cause that must be which requires the aid of falsehood, or what sort of associate in the defence of order and good government he is, who can stoop to invent a deliberate untruth with a view to the injury of an individual already suffering for his offence? Time was when an Englishman disdained to triumph over the fallen, or to insult the defenceless; in our days we have witnessed his proficiency in both; but it is not to be wondered at, for we have also seen the establishment of "John Bull," in the West, and of its dull and dirty prototype in the East, both for the support of social order and good government.

I am, Sir, your obedient Servant,

Chowringhee, March 3, 1823.

N.

We subjoin the despicable production, that our readers may see the degraded state of feeling which characterises the advocates of arbitrary power.—ED.

To the Editor of John Bull.

A CAPITAL HIT.

True Patriot I, for be it understood,
I leave this Country, for this Country's Good.

B.—

SIR,

A certain highly celebrated individual, bent on a long and dangerous voyage, with the sole view of mending what is rotten in the State of India, and foreseeing that a numerous list of adherents, like names to a County Petition for Parliamentary Reform, would be of infinite service to him in England, fell upon the following notable Expedient to swell the List. When about to sell off his furniture, he invited the Public to visit his House, and inspect his pretty things. He seated himself behind a PURDAH with pen, ink and paper, and each visitor as he entered was carefully noted down. He now chuckles not a little, I dare say at the success of his expedient and looks over the numerous list of highly respectable individuals "CIVILIANS, SOLDIERS, and SIMPLE CITIZENS," who paid him a visit of Confidence on his departure—and thus expressed their sense of the INJURY done him in the only way they could do it under "the Reign of Terror" now established in India.

CAPITAL!!!

Nautical Query.

To the Editor of the Journal.

SIR,

May I beg the favour of the following Query being solved either by yourself, who are an old Sailor, or any of your Nautical Readers, viz.:—Is there such a Vessel in the Royal Navy, as a Sloop of War bearing only two masts? By inserting the above you will oblige

Your Friend.

Choteesgurk, Feb. 20.

A LAND LUBBER.

NOTE.

We are enabled, by the information of a Friend, who was several years in the Navy, to answer our Correspondent's Query in the affirmative. We learn from him, that all Brigs of War commissioned by Masters and Commanders, (the next rank to that of Lieutenants in the Navy,) are Sloops of War; and it is a common distinction in the Navy to say, sneaking of Sloops of War, "she is a Ship-Sloop" (that is a Sloop of War of three masts), in contra-distinction to a Brig or Sloop of War of two masts. Brigs commanded by Lieutenants are not Sloops of War but Gun Brigs.—ED.

Personalities.

"Disaster always waits on imprudent conduct."

To the Editor of the Journal.

SIR,

On reading your Editorial remarks to-day, respecting the advantages derivable from the Freedom of the Press, I could not but applaud your zeal in supporting what has been so strenuously advocated by your Predecessor. But on coming towards the conclusion of them, I was really astonished to peruse the passages which you quoted from the BULL, reflecting so pointedly and personally at you. The BULL, if I remember rightly, always disclaimed the charge of ever being personal, and often expressed his abhorrence of such conduct. But the present is so glaring an instance, that it should not be overlooked.

By way of warning, I would advise the Editor of the BULL to be a little prudent and circumspect in dealing out aspersions on a Body of men collectively. However contemptible these people may appear to be in his eyes, when roused by abuse, they will resent it; and so effectually, that the panoply of fifty BULL or Ox Hides will not shield him from the shafts which may be aimed at him. Let a man be an Indian, an European, or an African, if his moral conduct be irreproachable, his integrity unstained, and his veracity unimpeachable, that man is entitled to all the respect and honour which are due to the first man breathing. The BULL, I find, is eternally imploring the Public to withdraw their support from the JOURNAL: and though his invocations are fruitless, yet neither he nor his Correspondents united, will, in the least relax, from the efforts which are in vain made. At one period they fawn on the Public with fulsome adulation; at another vituperate in abuse. Now their good sense is lauded; anon they are told their judgement is perverted. To draw a metaphor the BULL and his Satellites may be compared to a crabbed Child, ever pouting and crying to gain the desired wish, till the infliction of punishment silences him. So the BULL is ever revolving from one scheme to another to annihilate the JOURNAL, but in all he has been foiled. The Supreme Court, however, forces him to bellow for mercy, and will shortly apply the muzzle to his mouth.

In concluding, while Hampden, the supporter of freedom, the boast of our nation, and the pride of those who support his principles shall be respected and venerated by the present as well as future generations of men; the BULL and his myrmidons, the advocates of slavery, will be execrated and despised.

Your well-wisher,

Fort William, Feb. 25, 1823.

MILES.

Tuesday, March 4. 1823.

—43—

Important Queries for Medical Officers.

To the Editor of the Journal.

SIR,

Having heard it maintained that the Office of the Superintending Surgeon is a mere Staff Appointment, and can be relinquished by any Surgeon who may be appointed to the duty, *nay, what is more monstrous, can again be claimed by such individual, AS A MATTER OF RIGHT, and this, in order to qualify him at his own pleasure for a seat in the Medical Board, I most earnestly entreat those of your Correspondents, who know any thing of the Rules and Regulations, the Usages and Interests of the Medical Branch of the Service, to shew me a precedent in favour of so strange a doctrine.*

Let me put a Query or two—Does ANY Staff Appointment give the Officer holding it a claim to a Pension above that of his rank? And, does not a Superintending Surgeon, after the regular period of Service, claim, IN VIRTUE OF HAVING HELD SUCH OFFICE, the Pension of a SUPERIOR grade to that of full Surgeon?

Is it not by the Rules of the Medical Service made to be a disgrace, this being passed over when it comes by seniority a Medical Officer's turn to be chosen for that duty?

Is it not called a troublesome and invidious duty, and can any Medical Officer at his pleasure EVADE it? and can he do so for the purpose of retaining more lucrative offices in a grade below it?

Would he not be injuring the service thereby, and by keeping an appointment (which, if he took his regular tour of duty, would fail to others) by doing an injustice which he himself, had it ever before been attempted, would have railed against?

Yours,

GRYPHIUS PIS.

Letter from Madras.

To the Editor of the Journal.

SIR,

The force at Bangalore has received orders to be ready to march, the cause is unknown; but bazar conjecture turns towards the Rajah of Mysore and the Rajah of Coorg. Nepaunika, a petty Chieftain in the Southern Mahratta Country, report says, is also inclined to be troublesome.

24th January.—The 4th Cavalry and 22d Native Infantry on their march from Bangalore to Kalludghee have suffered severely from Cholera, particularly the latter, which in a very few days lost 40 Sepoys, and the proportion of death amongst the followers has been much greater.

Kalludghee.—That fine Regiment, the 21 Madras Cavalry, about to retire from the Field, has been Reviewed by the Officer Commanding the Division. As might naturally be supposed, he expressed his high satisfaction and unqualified praise at the appearance and Field Performance of the Regiment: it is much to be regretted that you cannot be furnished on this occasion with a copy of that interesting document—a Review Order.

It has been, we are told, in contemplation, but Military reasons may prevent the idea maturing, to erect a Statue near the Exchange at Madras, and to present an address of thanks to an eminent Commander now in England for his exertions in procuring a speedy distribution of the Mahratta Prize Money.

Madras.—A congratulatory Address in courtly imitation of Calcutta, it is proposed, shall be presented to the New Governor General; the uncertainty as to who this personage may be, matters nothing: the rising sun always illuminates. The Address might express our felicity in obtaining a Ruler whose wisdom in Council, decision in acting, honest policy, and manly perseverance, form a certain security that the British Indian Government will, under his administration, increase its character already deservedly great, and render its super-happy subjects still happier; the present and probable future excellence of the Police should be particularly dilated upon; the Liberty of the Press should not

be forgotten, it should be urged that the Press in fact is Free, and under the about-to-be Most Noble Excellency's administration likely to continue so. I say the Press is Free, for it is fully as much so as a Prebendary in the choice of a Bishop, now all the world knows that they may choose who they like, though, to be sure, if they chance to differ in opinion with the King, they forfeit all their goods and chattels; no matter, they are free. The Address might conclude by attributing to His about-to-be Excellency, a complete list of Virtues, Christian and Heathen, particularly those which are much oftener named than practised.

Considering the courtly improvement of Madras in late years, would it not be well to insert our firm confidence that His Excellency's prayers would avert the recurrence of Cholera. Favor me with your opinion upon this point, perhaps it might as yet seem fulsome, coming from the mouth of a Madrassee; what is Hyperbole at one place is not Hyperbole at another; that which at Madras would still be adulation, at Calcutta is the due veneration to superior worth.

Madras, Jan. 28. 1823.

S.

Improvements in Calcutta.

To the Editor of the Journal.

SIR,

The Public will probably soon have an opportunity of noticing some more Improvements in Calcutta.

A house has lately been built in Ranamoodie Gully, which leads from Old Court House Street to the Cossitollah. The house is at some distance from the street but the wall which was lately pulled down, stood in the narrowest part of it. If the Committee for Improving the Town have not already secured any of the ground belonging to the house, it is to be hoped they will be able to purchase a small part of it. The street is a great thoroughfare, and if a new wall should be built only two or three feet further back than the old one, it would be a great accommodation to those who pass that way.

Some workmen have been very busy within this day or two in demolishing an out-house belonging to the building lately occupied by Dr. Jameson, at the corner of Park Street, Chowringhee; for the purpose, it is said, of widening the road; which, if true, will improve this part of the town very much in appearance and be of some use; for the walls formed a very acute angle between Park Street and the Chowringhee road, making it dangerous to those who had occasion to pass from one to the other in a dark night, and even sometimes by day light. If the deep drain on the other side were to be covered over, tho' but for a short distance, it would tend to prevent accidents. Buggies and other Carriages, &c. have fallen into it even in clear weather, and during a fog it is very difficult to avoid it.

Some extraordinary work is going on, upon that part of the Esplanade opposite the Post Office. The people thereabouts say they are building a Bridge. Some of your Military Correspondents may be able to inform us whether it be an experimental Suspension Bridge or otherwise.

The Dome on the Government House appears with a new face; the whole of it with the Goddess having lately been covered with a lead coloured paint, which it is to be hoped will please those who found fault with the former colour. Perhaps it may be intended merely as priming to some more lively hue. At present it has a heavy look, and the figure at top has been so disfigured by it, that it would not be an easy matter for a stranger to say whether it represents a God or Goddess—Hero or Heroine.

Q.

COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

BUY]	CALCUTTA.	[SELL]
1 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ a 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	On London 6 Months sight, per Sicea Rupees, ..	2 a 2 $\frac{1}{2}$
Bombay 30 Days sight, per 100 Bombay Rupees ..		99
Madras ditto, 94 a 98 Sa. Rs. per 100 Madras Rupees.		
Bills on Court of Directors drawn, at 2 6—Exchange 26 a 28 pr.ct.prem.		
	Bank Shares—Premium 60 to 62 per cent.	

Lines

On the premature Death of an amiable Young Woman, the Wife of my Friend.—

O! her sweet spirit's fled—left us below,
To mourn her early loss with deepest woe—
Could nothing stay thy hand, relentless Death?
Not e'en her babe, who'd just receiv'd its breath?
Her aged parent's cries with anguish wild,
Imploring thee to spare their darling child?
Her husband, while despair rent his poor heart,
Beseeching thee thus early not to part
His cherish'd partner—solace of his life,
His tender friend—his fond beloved wife:
Vain the appeal, the dart of Death is thrown,
To realms of light a kindred Angel's flown;
Then wherefore grieve that she from us is torn?
A ministering spirit to her Maker's bourne;
O'er those she loved, she will be watchful still,
A gentle pleader to avert all ill:
So reason speaks, but fond affection tries
In vain to listen to cold reason's voice;
While busy memory will still pourtray,
Those scenes of bliss for ever fled away,
Recall the voice, mild look, and cheering smile
Tho' bitter dreadful anguish writhes the while.
But now religion comes, sweet maid of peace
Who only can deep sorrow's pangs appease,
Calm passion's storm, and mildly point the way
To realms of happiness and endless day.
Yet she does not forgetfulness impart,
Nor teach a doctrine foreign to the heart,
Forbids us not her virtues to revere,
Her goodness, mildness, and her truth sincere,
But bids us imitate and fully prove,
How we remember her, and how we love.

Fort Barrabutty,
Jan. 1, 1823.

MILES.

Futtehghurh Festivities.

SIR,

To the Editor of the Journal.

The cold weather being on the wane, the scattered Members of the Futtehghurh Society—ever distinguished for sociability and conviviality,—have begun to assemble in their warm weather retreats. The Tents are again consigned to the Godown—the Mantons are carefully laid up in their cases—the rough leather gaiters and coarse shooting jackets, yield to the more refined cut of Whippey, Buckmaster, Taylor, and Doggett. The thick and lately-comforting cotton-stuffed Livado, is resigned for the graceful folds of Brussels and Mecklin; in short, in the absence of the two extremes of heat and cold, all nature seems animated. Benign smiles and cheerfulness reign on the cheeks of the Fair. To this happy temperature of climate, and its beneficial influence on the human disposition, may be attributed the powerful effect of the polite and gracious exertions of the hospitable Commandant of the Futtehghurh Provincials, whose arduous duties having debarred him the happy privilege of wandering in search of health during the cold season, welcomed the return to the station of many families by a splendid Dinner, Ball, and Supper, on the 10th instant. The attention of the Host to the entertainment of his Guests, was marked and unvaried throughout the evening. The Dinner and Wines were excellent—the greatest art and dexterity of cooking was displayed in the potages, hors d'oeuvres, in the entrees de bœuf, de patisseries, de volailles, de veau, de mouton, de poissons, rôts, entremets, &c.—rins, rouges, and blanches of every description, cheered the soul to merriment. The dancing was kept up with great glee, Terpsichore, personified in the Commandant's Private Band, animated all the party—Erato distinguished the more favored few, whose blushes, half-constrained, seemed to invoke the hymeneal god. The graces of adjoining Stations enlivened the Festival with their presence.

Futtehghurh, Feb. 11, 1823.

CHANGE.

Benefit Concerts.

To the Editor of the Journal.

SIR,

I am not accustomed to write in Public Journals, but the illiberal and unfounded attack made upon me by "A LOVER OF JUSTICE" (or rather of "injustice") in the JOURNAL of Saturday last, is of such a nature that I cannot allow it to pass in silence, without doing myself much injury in a public, as well as in a private, point of view.

In the first instance, I must tell your Correspondent, that all Professors of Music, of whatever country they may be, have a right in all parts of the globe wherever they may be, to give Concerts for their Benefit, it being one of the resources of their Profession, and that they always look to and obtain, more or less, the liberal and kind patronage of the Public, it is therefore nothing novel that I or any other person of the same profession should look to the proverbially liberal Society of Calcutta for a share of their patronage.

In the second place, I beg to inform your Correspondent that he will find much difficulty in substantiating his bold assertion that "none of the highly favored Violin Players, Opera and Church Singers (meaning those that are foreigners, among whom I am of course included) would ever come forward to promote the Irish Contributions by raising a Concert," because, I can prove to his entire discomfiture, that I was ever ready to lend my humble assistance, if a Concert had been got up for that purpose, and why one was not got up, I am not competent to judge, for it was not for want of my willingness to aid.

In the third place, I am sorry to find, that your Correspondent forces me, for my own sake, to repel, with what feelings you may easily conceive, his illiberal and invidious assertion that "I had, a few years back, made a fortune, went to my country, and squandered it away, and am now returned for another Benefit." The drift of which is no doubt to injure me in the eyes of the Public, and to deter the respectable Society of Calcutta from supporting the Concert which I have advertised for Thursday next. In this attempt I am fully confident, from the high opinion I have of the generosity of this Society, that your Correspondent will not succeed, particularly when I candidly declare that an anxiety to make the necessary arrangements in Europe for the education of my son was the principal object of my undertaking so expensive a voyage, and that the small savings of several years (not a fortune as it has been insinuated) have been appropriated for that purpose. Whether this measure, prompted by the natural solicitude of a father to secure an education for his child, can be termed, "squandering away a fortune," I leave to the respectable Society of this metropolis to decide.

Thus much I think it necessary to say (in addition to what you have already remarked in the Note appended to the letter, to which this is a reply, for which remarks I offer you my best acknowledgements) in self-defence against the most unprovoked and illiberal assertions advanced by your Correspondent "A LOVER OF JUSTICE," and leaving him to reconsider well the subject, and to make due reparation for the injury he so unfairly endeavoured to bring on me, without any just cause.

I remain, Sir, your most obedient Servant

Calcutta, March 2, 1823.

G. KUHLAU.

Note.—We have much pleasure in giving insertion to the above, which we trust will completely overcome the prejudices of "A LOVER OF JUSTICE" and of all others, if there be any, who think with him.—ED.

Stations of Vessels in the River.

CALCUTTA, MARCH 2, 1823.

At Diamond Harbour.—LORD WELLINGTON, (P.), proceeded down,—MERCURE, (F.), and JOHN SHORE, (brig), outward-bound, remain,—FRANKLIN, (Amico.), proceeded down.

Kedgeree.—NERBUDDA, and FLORA, outward-bound, remain.

New Anchorage.—H. C. Ships GENERAL HEWETT, and THAMES.

Saugor.—DAVID SCOTT, and EUGENIA, outward-bound, remain,—PRINCESS CHARLOTTE, gone to Sea.

ASIATIC DEPARTMENT.

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Supreme Court.

In our Paper of yesterday, CHARLES SWEEDLAND, Esq. was stated as Foreman, in consequence of his name standing at the top of the List put into the hands of our Prioters, an error which we hasten to correct; the Honorable C. R. LINDSAY having been elected to that office.

On Saturday last, Robert O'Dowda, Esq. took the usual Oath on being appointed a Barrister of this Court.

New Medical Society.

A Meeting of Medical Gentlemen took place on Saturday Evening, for the purpose of establishing a Medical Society; of which, we understand, Dr. Hare is to be President, and Dr. Adam, Secretary. A Library is to be formed, and a monthly contribution levied from the Members; but those who reside at the Upper Stations, will be required to pay proportionally less than those who live in Calcutta. This same kind of rule has been adopted by some of the Societies in England. The Members of the London Astronomical Society, who reside beyond 50 miles distant, pay only one-third of the regular contribution.

Letter from Penang.

Extract of a Letter from Penang, dated February 10, 1823.

New Opium has already been selling here at 2,000 Dollars per Chest from a Flying Eastern Trader, and though the price may be quoted at that, no Sales can now be effected. Rice continues in demand; but is totally insaleable, as the Retail Merchants, who are Chinese, have got into a system of controlling the Market, which affects all importations at pleasure. It is much to be lamented that a sion is not put to this evil, as the poor classes are literally starving. There are more Beggars in this little hole than in all India put together, and the spectacle of seeing so many miserable objects crawling about the streets, is disgusting. Several individuals with true philanthropy have, I understand, purchased Rice and retailed it to the most needy at prime cost; but however praise-worthy their intentions, they have been far from affording efficient relief; it is notwithstanding to be hoped, that occasional checks of this kind, but in a somewhat more extensive and substantial degree, will soon put a stop to the villainy of the Chinese, who really appear to possess all the influence and power here. Poor —— had a quantity of Wines and Beer, &c. nearly confiscated by a Chinaman calling himself the *Arrack Farmer*, because he removed them from the Ship without a Pass, though a Permit from the Government Collector of Customs for landing all his Baggage was previously obtained. This Farmer has the right of levying a duty of one Rupee upon every Gallon of Spirits, and three Rupees upon every dozen of Wine, Beer, Brandy &c. imported and sold, exclusive of the Duty levied by the Custom House, which will account for the high quotations in my Letter of the 5th.

Nothing of this sort exists at Calcutta, Madras, or Bombay, I know, and it has been introduced here very probably from Malacca, for it is *Mynheer like* altogether.

By the bye, the Governor of Malacca is dead, and it is said that all the Dutch Officers and Troops have gone to Batavia to obtain arrears of Pay, the Settlement being drained of every Dollar, and the inhabitants alarmed for their personal safety. Emigrations are daily occurring to Singapore."

CALCUTTA BAZAR RATES, FEBRUARY 27, 1823.

	BUY	SELL
Remittable Loans,	Rs. 31 0	30 0
Unremittable ditto,	8 0	7 8
Bills of Exchange on the Court of Directors, for 18 Months, dated 30th of April 1822,	26 0	25 0
Bank Shares,	6290 0	6100 0
Spanish Dollars, per 100,	207 0	206 0
Notes of Good Houses, for 6 Months, bearing Interest, at 5 per cent.		

The Chinese Bee.

We have received by an arrival from that quarter, the continuing numbers of the new Paper, which we some time ago announced to our readers under the title of the CHINESE BEE: our series extends up to No. XV. the 19th of December 1822. Their contents are not (to us) highly interesting, consisting chiefly of the debates of their Senate previous to their Revolution; some of the local articles are, however, not without interest, and of these we have procured translations, as we shall do with any others which may appear to repay the trouble of perusal. The most valuable is an account of the Fire at Canton, written apparently by an eye-witness, and as more detailed than those which have hitherto appeared, we make no apology for inserting it.

CHINESE BEE.—No. XI.—NOVEMBER 21, 1822.

We have the disagreeable task of announcing to the public a dreadful conflagration which took place in Canton on the 1st of this month. It commenced with great impetuosity and lasted a considerable time, as will be seen by the letter which we have received.

Canton, November 7, 1822.—On Friday 1st Nov. at 10 at night, I accompanied the first fire engine about a mile to the North of the Factories, and the whole of the night was passed in anxious anticipation on the terrace of Mr. U—n's house, from whence we watched the progress of the fire. At break of day the flames had gained the apartments of Mr. Pearson in the new Factory and those of Sir W. Frazer's and Mr. Robart's in the old one. All Canton was in the greatest consternation, and boats could hardly be procured even at the most exorbitant prices.

At 9 A. M. on Saturday (2d Nov.) some Seamen arrived from the Indiamen at Whampoa, and every effort was made to stop the progress of the fire but in vain. The wind blew with violence, and we were driven by the fire and smoke of the burning Factories into the streets and to the margin of the river. At noon the fire had reached the end of Hog Lane, and some more of the Factories. The dining-room of the Company fell in about two o'clock, and the Chapel caught fire about the same time. The books of the Library were thrown out of the windows. The apartments of Mr. Robinson in the new Factory, fell in, China street was in ashes, and the flames extended to the West along that bank of the river as far as the eye could reach. The houses of the public women situated on the banks of the river built only of wood, took fire at this time, and the atmosphere was enveloped in gloom and darkness by fire and smoke. The cries of the unfortunate inhabitants, the burning splinters of wood, and the crushes of falling ruins froze our blood with horrors. At 4 P. M. all hope was lost, Mr. U—— and some others left town for Whampoa. I remained on the river before the factories with a violent headache, occasioned by fatigue and fasting; I passed a sleepless night, sometimes resting on a heap of baggage, and sometimes contemplating the immense conflagration. At day break on Sunday I ventured between the heaps of ruins from the apartments of Mr. Robinson and Mr. Millet to my old habitation, and found it untouched by the fire. The Company's establishment is totally destroyed. Three rooms are preserved in the old Factory and four in the new. The Company's loss is estimated at four millions of Dollars. The Hongs of Goqua, Chonqua, Mauqua, and Ponkequa were destroyed; eighty streets, containing many thousand shops and houses, are burnt. Some Chinese lost their lives in the flames, and others were crushed beneath the feet of the multitude who were struggling to save a little of their property; others were assassinated by robbers, who in their rage for plunder clove the skulls of those who had property. All persons who had any thing of value about them were obliged to carry a drawn sword in their hands, or be accompanied by another person with arms.

The Governor of Canton passed the night on the walls of the City, offering up prayers to heaven to stop this horrible conflagration. On Sunday morning he came down the river to see the ruins of the Factories, the melancholy appearance of which

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drew tears from his eyes. Never has Canton suffered such a dreadful calamity.

The Chinese look on this as a punishment from the Divinity for the luxury and wickedness of this rich and commercial City, and in thinking thus, they acknowledge a Providence, and discover the spirits of Faith. That great calamities should be looked upon as judgements from heaven is the Doctrine of reason and of Scripture. But how often is the hardened heart of man alike insensible to the judgments and mercies of the Most High! A devout reliance on them is too often treated as superstition, or despised as childish, and generally overlooked.

But how admirable are the inscrutable ways of Providence! Did the Chinese but remember the Justice of that God who sooner or later visits the sins of those who offend him, did they but recollect the contempt with which the unfortunate Manchew Tartar Qui-hing persuaded to renounce the religion of his Fathers, trampled him under foot, whom by the light of Faith he had recognised to be his Redeemer and the True God, they certainly would not wholly attribute this fire to the wickedness of the ruined City, but in part to the outrages perpetrated against the Divinity of the God of the Portuguese, of that God whom they recognise by the lights of reason, and who has been so much outraged in that quarter of the globe.

This passage refers to the following article translated from a preceding number of this paper.

Qui-hing, a Manchew Tartar a descendant of the Vermilion Standard, and holding an hereditary employ; received the Christian religion from his forefathers, and for having obstinately adhered to those tenets was some years ago condemned to degradation at Yi-li in Western Tartary, there to be kept to hard work. The period of his disgrace was to be interminable, but he was persuaded to renounce the faith of his ancestors, and in proof of his sincerity trampled on the crucifix; keeping it for some time beneath his feet in token of contempt. His Imperial Majesty, satisfied with the retraction of Qui-hing, has given him permission to hoist his standard again, but with spies on his behaviour, and a prohibition to him to absent himself from thence.

CHINESE BEE.—No. VIII.

Provincial Intelligence from Canton.—The Pekin Gazettes contain representations from the different Censors, ("Yu-Xi"), on the abuses prevalent in the Tribunals of Justice; such as a number of Officers employed in them by the Presiding Mandarins, &c.; these persons usurp the power of the Tribunals, and deprive poor suitors of justice till they have extorted something from them. In other cases, they detain innocent persons in prison unjustly: making them suffer all kinds of misery and ill-treatment: thus introducing contagious disorders in the prisons, either from the accumulated number of victims, or from neglect in arresting diseases at their commencement.

Some intelligence has been received of the military operations on the North-Western frontier. The Enemy intended to invade the province of Sac-chuen, while another division was to march on the side of Thibet; but alarmed by the Imperial Army, they united their forces and gave battle; they were beaten and have taken refuge in the snowy mountains of Tartary. A great slaughter of the fugitives took place, and the campaign was thus speedily terminated.

A number of persons have been condemned to capital punishments, for having cut timber in one of the forests of His Majesty, called the mountain of Tsong-xuy. It appeared on the trial, that the criminals had paid a large sum of money to the keeper of the forest, to allow them to cut the timbers: the keeper being a Tartar of distinction was degraded, and the other criminals condemned to death.

Births.

At Garden Reach, on the 1st instant, the Lady of Mr. George COLIER, Attorney at Law, of a Son.

On the 27th ultimo, Mrs. P. LINDEMAN, of Durrumollah, of a Son.

At Tannah, on the 30th of January, the Lady of E. H. BAILLIE, Esq.

A Spinster's Rejoinder.

To the Editor of the Journal.

SIR,

In your JOURNAL of the fifth of this month, I perceive that Mr. B. has favored the world, with another bright effusion from his ELEGANT pen, purporting to be an answer to the remarks of PRUDENTIA and myself, on his first ill-judged production. How far this reply may have influenced PRUDENTIA I leave her to judge; as for myself I am induced to believe, that B. does not precisely understand the subject he is writing upon, and to hope that he is not aware how very pernicious his doctrines are or to what mischief their evil tendency may lead. I am guided to the above conclusion by observing an evident contradiction in his last letter: for instance, in the 3d paragraph, referring to PALEY, he says,—“I perfectly agree with a Spinster as to the GENERAL TENDENCY of these Essays, viz. that they teach parents and children, mutual forbearance for the comfort and happiness of each other.” (How does this accord with his advising my fellow Spinsters, to read the same work, in support of the very opposite doctrines, for surely B. will permit us poor women to judge of the opinion of this Great Moral Essayist from the whole of his writings rather than from a few detached paragraphs, (NOT SENTENCES) and even these referring to very particular occasions. Let me take this opportunity of explaining a part of my first letter which B. has evidently misunderstood. He says I admit that young Ladies should, in some cases, act without the sanction of their guardians. I do not intend by this to assert, that a girl should judge for herself exactly; but when all her relatives and friends, with the exception of her guardian, conceive a match to be eligible, she is then justified in following their opinion and her own wishes, in preference to obeying the dictates of the latter, founded probably on caprice or prejudice. And these I imagine are the cases of extreme cruelty, that PALEY alludes to, which is very far indeed from supporting the principles, which B. is attempting to inculcate on the minds of my fair but frail friends.

I should be glad to suppose that this writer was not a wolf in sheep's clothing, and had no other motive for writing his first letter, beyond the wish of bringing the subject to notice by public discussion; but I am still to learn what probable result he means to attain even by this; surely he does not expect to induce guardians to change their line of conduct, and still less can we hope Spinsters will do so, by referring them to two Works which he himself admits contain, on the whole, doctrines the very reverse to those he is endeavouring to support.

In his third paragraph B. writes as follows,—“I now come to her assertion which is in my opinion unfounded, that it is merely in detached SENTENCES,” &c. if B. will take the trouble of again looking at my letter, he will find that detached PARAGRAPHS, not SENTENCES, is my expression, which circumstance renders any further remarks on this part of his letter unnecessary. I now come to the concluding sentence of his epistle, where he with his usual accuracy, recommends to the perusal of PRUDENTIA and myself, a number (148) of the RAMBLER, which has no manner of connection with the subject he is writing on.

In taking my leave of Mr. B. I hope not to be again obliged to touch upon this subject, as I conceive it is too delicate a one to be discussed in a daily Paper, and would advise his following my example, as publicity will rather impede than advance his progress towards the end he is labouring to attain.

Your obedient Servant,

February 11, 1823.

A SPINSTER.

Deaths.

At the Presidency, on the 22d ultimo, Mr. JOHN LOGAN, Conductor in the Ordnance Commissariat.

At Berhampore, on the 23d ultimo, the infant Son of Mr. PATRICK McDERMOTT, aged 4 months.

On the 24th ultimo, at an advanced age, Sergeant WILLIAM CASEY, Pensioner.

At Digah, Dinapore, on the 22d ultimo, JULIA, the infant Daughter of Mr. H. FITZGERALD, aged 1 year and 8 months.

Bombay General Orders.

BY THE HONOURABLE THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL,

Bombay Castle, February 1, 1823.

The Honourable the Governor in Council is pleased to permit Mr. Sutherland Meek, Esq. M. D. Surgeon, and 2d Member of the Medical Board on this Establishment, to proceed to England on the Free Trader COLUMBIA, and to resign the service of the Hon'ble Company, on the pension assigned to his rank and situation from the period of his embarkation.

The Governor in Council cannot allow Doctor Meek to quit the shores of India, without acknowledging in Public Orders the high sense he entertains of the zeal and ability manifested by that Gentleman, during a long and eventful service of upwards of two and thirty years, and will not fail to bring to the Special Notice of the Honourable the Court of Directors in England, the great advantage which the Public has derived from Dr. Meek's services, both in his former employments and in that which he has lately filled as a Member of the Medical Board.

By Order of the Honourable the Governor in Council.

H. NEWNHAM, Chief Sec. to Govt.

Selections.

Another Murder in the District of Kishnagar.—It is our painful duty to mention, that there is strong reason to believe that another murder has been committed within these few days, in the District of Kishnagar. We learn from a letter of an Indigo Planter in that District, that on the 19th of last month, Mr. JAMES FRASER set out on horseback from the Factory of Bhatparral for Shekarpore to collect money due to him by natives in that neighbourhood. Having arrived and transacted his business at Shekarpore, Mr. FRASER set out about 10 o'clock at night, intending to pay a visit to a friend at Munsunda, and has never since been heard of. The next morning his horse was found tied to a tree in Raninagore, a village situated, we understand, between Shekarpore and Munsunda. Mr. FRASER's friends have used the utmost exertions to ascertain his fate, and, not having succeeded in gaining the smallest information, they conclude he has been waylaid and murdered by the natives.—This, or the supposition that Mr. FRASER may have drowned himself if the river was in the neighbourhood, seems to be the only way in which his extraordinary disappearance can be accounted for.—Our Correspondent adds, that if active measures are not immediately taken to suppress a spirit of outrage which disgraces the District of Kishnagar, it will soon be impossible for the Indigo Planters to live within that jurisdiction without being exposed to the continual danger of assassination.

It is necessary to add, that although our Correspondent's letter did not reach us till Saturday, it bears date the 23d ult., being only four days after the disappearance of Mr. FRASER.—*India Gazette.*

The Theatre.—The Play provided for Thursday evening at Chowringhee, was the excellent Comedy of "The Dramatist."—The Governor General did not honor the Theatre with his presence, which was the more regretted, as it was understood his absence was occasioned by indisposition. On the entrance of His Excellency the Commander in Chief, the performance commenced; and seldom have we had the happiness to witness one which caused more unrestrained merriment, or called forth such ceaseless and unbounded applause.

The characters in general were exceedingly well sustained. In that of the mischievous and profligate *Lady Waitfort*, we recognized the Amateur who lately appeared in the character of *Mrs. Davenport* in "Too late for Dinner."—To say that in such hands *Lady Waitfort* was excellent throughout, must be superfluous; but we may be allowed to say, we were more particularly pleased with her Ladyship in her first and unexpected interview with *Vapid*—"I am told, Sir, you have business for *Lady Waitfort*."—*Vapid.* "Yes, Ma'am, but I could wait whole hours for so beautiful a woman!"—*Lady.* "Oh Sir!"—*Vapid.* "Yes, I am no stranger to her charms—sweet young creature!"—*Lady.* "Nay, dear Sir, not so very young."—This was uttered by her Ladyship with the most imitable expression of gratified vanity glimmering through the flimsy veil of affected modesty. On this, as on all other occasions, we could not sufficiently admire the excellence of her Ladyship's taste in dress, in which we were by no means singular, as we heard several Ladies declare the green velvet and her Ladyship's elegant head dress to be quite charming.

Floriville, the gay, the elegant, the *Italian* *Floriville*, was exquisite throughout, but particularly so in his first interview with his uncle and his aunt in *future*, where he declares the violence of his love for his own dear and imitable self.—We thought the "glorious" *Berkeley* had rather too powerful an effect on *Floriville*, where he rescues *Louisa Courtney* from *Willoughby*; but in this, perhaps, we shall be thought too fastidious.

The veteran Amateur who represented *Lord Scratch*, performed his part with great spirit throughout.—*Old Scratch* stretched his lungs and the privilege of his Peerage to the utmost, and created infinite merriment amongst the audience.

The Lady who performed the part of the young, the light-hearted *Marianne*, understood the character completely, and performed her part throughout with the greatest spirit and animation. We could not sufficiently admire the grace with which *Marianne* at the idea of a Nunnery fainted in the arms of her *Poet*, and her sudden recovery at the talismanic words, "Poor girl! I really loved her!"

Louisa Courtney and *Willoughby*, however good in other respects, we think would have been the better of a little more animation.

Peter was very good, and stood on the chair like "Patience on a monument" decyphering the sublime effusion of that determined dramatizer, *Vapid*.

The Amateur who performed the part of *Neville*, was as usual all that could be desired.

Ennui was represented to admiration by the excellent Amateur whom we had lately the pleasure of seeing in the character of *Nicholas Twiss* in the farce of "Too late for Dinner." He was greeted with unceasing applause, and every "I've an idea" he uttered, threw the audience into bursts of the most obstreperous laughter. We thought him particularly great in his yawns—they were quite irresistible, and had an effect upon our fauces we found it quite impossible to withstand; our neighbours, too, we observed, yawned most sympathetically.—It is said, and we regret deeply to hear it, that in the representative of *Ennui*, our Theatre will shortly lose one of its brightest ornaments.

The character of *Vapid*, the life, the soul, the hero of the piece, was sustained from first to last with the greatest spirit. The scenes were he mounts honest *Peter* on the chair, to read his Epilogue, was unspeakably comic.—"Oh, damn it! damn it! damn it!" exclaims the unfortunate dramatizer, "that cursed half line! I shall never accomplish it—all so chaste—all so correct,—and to have it mar'd for want of one half line—one cursed half line! I could almost weep for disappointment."—*Peter.* "Never mind, Sir, put in any thing!"—*Vapid.* "Put in any thing!!! why 'tis the last line, and the Epilogue must end with something striking, or it will be no trap for applause—no trap for applause after all this fine writing! Put in any thing!!! What do you mean, Sirrah?" The perplexity of *Vapid* about the stubborn half line, and the perfect coolness and naïveté with which honest undramatic *Peter* recommends him to put in any thing, and the high scorn with which the indignant Dramatizer received the proposal of filling up the unfortunate blank in his Epilogue with any thing,—were irresistibly comic. Our Dramatist was also beyond conception great, when being safely delivered of his "half line," he smashes the China and bursts like a thunderbolt from the closet, with a broken plate in one hand, the Epilogue in the other, and the candlestick (not omitting the candle) in his pocket, exclaiming in "phrenesy sublime"—"Die all, die nobly, die like Demi-gods!" This, and the reading of the Epilogue by *Peter*, threw the audience into convulsions of loud and long-continued laughter, and altogether formed one of the most superlatively comic scenes we ever had the happiness to witness.

It had been announced that the Original Epilogue would be spoken; but behold! when the day arrived, a copy of the Original Epilogue was not to be procured in all Calcutta. "Here was an incident!" In this dilemma, an Epilogue, and an excellent one it was, was got up upon the spur of the occasion, and spoken with the greatest vivacity humour by the indefatigable *Vapid*, who not content with "dramatizing" his friends on the boards during five acts, concluded to the great consternation of some, and to the great amusement of others, by "dramatizing" his admirers in the Pit and Boxes.

Vapid was represented by the veteran Amateur who lately appeared in the character of *Bob Rifter*, in *Too late for Dinner*; an amateur whose versatility of talent enables him to portray with matchless fidelity alike the gravest and the gayest, the rudest and the most polished characters; one who has attempted every thing, and of whom with perfect truth it may be said—*nullum quod letit non oravit*.—*India Gazette.*

MARRIAGES.

At Madras, on the 21st of January, DAVID BANNERMAN, Esq. Madras Civil Service, to ELIZA, Daughter of the late Major COULTMAN, of His Majesty's 53d Regiment.

At Malacca, on the 27th of January, S. VAN DER TUNK, Esq. of the Dutch Civil Service, to Miss LOUISE NEUBRONNER.

HIGH WATER AT CALCUTTA, THIS-DAY.

	H. M.
Morning	8 34
Evening	8 53
Moon's Age,.....	22 Days.

New South Wales.

Hobart Town Gazette, Nov. 2.—On Thursday last arrived the ship **EMERALD**, Capt. Elliott, with 150 tons of elephant oil from Macquarie Island, from whence she brings a gang of men belonging to this Settlement.

Same day the brig **JUPITER**, Captain Martin, arrived from Port Dalrymple.

Yesterday arrived direct from China, the brig **ANNOYNA**, Capt. David Wilson, with teas and sundries.

The brig **CALDER**, Captain Dillon, for South America, and the brig **MINERVA**, Captain Bell, for Port Jackson, are expected to sail to-morrow.

Port Dalrymple.—By the arrival of the **NEREUS** at Port Dalrymple, *Sydney Gazette* of the 27th September and 4th October have been received; from which we learn the following information:—

The ship **MARSHAL WELLINGTON**, Captain Martin, which left Port Jackson the 10th March for Rio de Janeiro, had returned to that port with a valuable cargo. This vessel is announced to sail for England in January next, and will touch at Hobart Town on her passage.

On the 25th of September, His Majesty's Surveying-brig **BATHURST**, Captain King, R. N. sailed for England.—Passengers, Mrs. King and family; and Drs. Montgomery and Hall, R. N.

The ship **MARSHAL WELLINGTON** brought accounts of the safe arrival of the **SURVY**, Captain Raine, at St. Salvador, which she left in May, for England. Major General Macquarie and family, as well as all on board, were in perfect health.

Law.—The Court of Criminal Jurisdiction commenced its Sessions on the 23d Sept.; and on the Monday following, William Davidson, otherwise John Davidson, was indicted for attempting to murder Mr. Robert Howe, on the evening of the 15th of June last, as already reported in this Gazette.—After examining a number of witnesses, whose evidence were wholly circumstantial, the prisoner was found guilty.

Threatened Destruction to the next Year's Crop.—The *GAZETTE* of the 4th October contains the following:—

"The caterpillar has been threatening destruction to the next year's crop of wheat. About three weeks since the lands in the interior, particularly cultivated parts, became suddenly invaded with hosts of this devastating insect. A respectable farmer at Castlereagh has given us an account of the manner in which they take possession of a field; they extend to a great length in equal line, and thus in myriads regularly march forward, carrying all before them. The leaf is first devoured, and then the stem down to the surface of the ground. These destroying creatures disappear as suddenly as they come forth; they become buried in the earth, and of them no more is perceived. In about April 1819, the fields were ruined for some months; no herbage was left for the cattle; but, in that season of the year, the effects could not be so serious as is contemplated at this juncture; the mischief that may be done with the wheat, if we are not blessed with a few heavy showers, it is feared, will be incalculable."

"In addition to the above, we have just learnt from Dr. Harris, of the South Creek, that the ravages of this terrible insect (a kind of grey grub), are truly deplorable. This Gentleman informs us, as a specimen of the effects that are likely to be apprehended, that 70 acres of promising wheat, upon the estate of Sir John Jamison, have been so far destroyed, as to remove even the expectancy of 20 bushels being saved! In some parts of the country rollers are used just at night fall; this being the only expedient that could be adopted to keep this dreadful visitation at all under."

[Our gardens have been much invaded by a brown grub, which destroys all young plants.—Lime has not been found efficacious in destroying them.—We should be happy to give publicity to any preventive that is known for the ravages of this insect.]

Passengers.

Passengers per PORTSEA, from *Bombay* for *Calcutta*.—Mrs. Blair, Mr. Blair, Sir Ralph Rice.

Passengers per KING GEORGE THE FOURTH, from *Bombay* for *London*.—Mrs. Barlow, Miss Barlow, Lieut. Hannah, Asst. Surg. Graham.

Administrations to Estates.

Mr. Robert Gibson, late of *Calcutta*, Taylor, deceased—Robert Gibson, Esq.

Mr. John Logan, late a Conductor of Ordnance, of the Honorable Company's Bengal Establishment, deceased—James Calder, Esq.

Chinese Government Paper.

ORDERING PACQUA TO BE RESTORED TO HIS HONG, DATED DECEMBER 9, 1822.

Yuen, Governor of Canton, &c. &c. &c. and Ta, Superintendent of Customs, &c. hereby issue their Commands to the Hong Merchants; "Memanche" (Merwanjee) the Indian Merchant, and the American Merchant Wilcocks and others petitioned against Pacqua for the recovery of debts and the Governor ordered the Hong to be shut up and the local Magistrate to prosecute. Whilst conducting the prosecution, Honqua and others petitioned in the name of the said Foreign Merchants to restore Pacqua to conduct the Commerce, that the foreign debts might be forthcoming. I then gave orders to the Merchants to ascertain the facts; whether (these foreigners) from themselves desired first to originate and then to extinguish this business? Whether, if Pacqua were restored, the foreign debts would be forthcoming; and whether all the merchants voluntarily desired it or not? Afterwards the answer given to Government, was that since Memanche was willing to receive his claims from the annual profits of the said Hong Merchants' Trade with the Company, by annual dividends, the foreign debts would be forthcoming; that the foreigners voluntarily and anxiously desired the restoration of Pacqua, that it was not possible the Hong Merchants could have any other motive which would disappoint the expectation of all persons, and therefore they looked up to Government and earnestly entreated that the Government would condescend to comply with the foreigner's wishes and restore Pacqua, that the foreign debts might be forthcoming and the Merchants have support.

We, the Governor and Hoppo find that by Law, Hong Merchants becoming indebted to foreigners, must be broken and their effects taken to make payment, by which the Celestial Empire shews its tender regard for remote foreigners, but it will not support with partiality Hong Merchants instead of breaking and prosecuting them. Those foreign Merchants in desiring now that they may be paid out of the annual profits of said Hong, and requesting the restoration of Pacqua for this purpose, and that he may have support, shew that in petitioning at first, they acted rashly and stupidly, since the Hong Merchants have clearly ascertained that those foreign debts will be forthcoming and that those foreigners are sensible of their having improperly petitioned at first, We, the Government and Hoppo, condescend to comply with the foreigner's feelings, and direct the local Magistrates to liberate Pacqua and restore him to his Hong, that he may trade as usual, and the Hong Directors, Houqua, and Monqua, and Chingqua, and Paankeequa and the others must constantly exercise a surveillance and assist in the safe management of the Concern, that the foreign debts may be gradually paid, and the Hong preserved entire and not tread in its former footsteps, which will incur heavy guilt. And hereafter the foreign Merchants must not covetously deal with feeble merchants and extort large profits, and thereby induce accumulated debts in violation of the Imperial orders, limiting debts to one hundred thousand Taels, and the Hong Merchants must deal justly and not become indebted to large amounts, and thereby incur guilt. If these, our commands be trifled with and disobeyed, not only when discovered, will the Hong Merchants be broken, but the foreign merchants shall not be paid more than one hundred thousand Taels. Do not by your conduct induce late and unavailing repents, but let every one concerned yield implicit obedience. A special Edict, —Harkara. *Tau Kuang, 2d Year, 10th Moon, 26th Day.*

Shipping Arrivals.

CALCUTTA.					
Date	Names of Vessels	Flags	Commanders	From Whence	Left
March 3	Zeli	French	M. Gaert	Mauritius	Jan. 2
3	Edward Stretell	British	R. Airport	Eskapelly	Feb. 17
3	Thetis	British	C. F. Davis	Rangoon	Feb. 14
2	Dolphin	British	G. East	Coringa	Jan. 26

Shipping Departures.

CALCUTTA.					
Date	Names of Vessels	Flags	Commanders	Destination	
Feb. 23	Sir Edward Paget	British	J. Geary	London	
March 1	Rambang	Dutch	T. C. Ross	Batavia	
1	Atam	British	J. Daniels	Rangoon	
1	Gloucester	British	H. Scarborough	Penang	
2	Sun	British	J. Anderson	C. of Good Hope	
2	Enterprant	French	De Roquenel	Bourbon	

BOMBAY.					
Date	Names of Vessels	Flags	Commanders	Destination	
Feb. 8	Antel	British	J. Mathy	Colombo	
9	Portsea	British	E. Worthington	Bengal	
11	King George Fourth	British	J. W. Clarke	London	